

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN



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AGRICULTURAL.

A FEW years ago the discussion of any topic of a scientific nature excited but little interest among farmers. They thought that science was far removed from the truly practical work of the farm. This condition of things has passed away. The farmer now feels that a knowledge of the teachings of science lies at the very foundation of success in the pursuit of agriculture. He has learned that science is simply systematized knowledge; that its principles are founded on the facts which are discovered daily on the farm, or in the orchard. In reality the farmer is one of the most scientific of men, and is surrounded by conditions especially fitted to develop observation, comparison and method in work. The Farmers' Institutes have done a good deal in awakening farmers to the necessity of a study of science as it relates to their work. But we believe that a greater future is in store for the people of rural districts when their children shall have become acquainted with the teachings of science, by having given some attention to its study while in the common school in their neighborhood, and the subject of entomology especially is one well fitted for study in rural schools; specimens are readily obtained for illustration, and it is peculiarly suited to interest young minds.—Prof. Pantou.

THE Iowa station tests milk for bacteria that produces bad flavor or foul odors as follows: A number of test tubes are prepared, sterilized and plugged with cotton to keep out bacteria floating in the air, and as the patrons of the station creamery bring in their milk, each lot is sampled and the samples placed in these tubes, which are numbered, and a memorandum is made. After a lapse of sufficient time for the bacteria in the milk to develop, the tubes are unsealed and tested for odors and flavors, and a record of those found is entered in the memorandum. Where objectionable odors or flavors are found, the patron who brought the milk is informed, investigation is made as to care and cleanliness there, and the proper instruction is given. It has been found that so many odors and flavors attributed to weeds were really due to bacteria in the milk. Bacteria causing a bitter taste, develops best in a low temperature, but warm weather is most favorable to the great majority of others.

Pure Bred Leicesters.

The fine group of sheep represented in our illustration this week is owned by James S. Smith, Maple Grove Stock Farm, Maple Lodge, Ontario. The sheep are all his own breeding from imported stock. The flock on this farm was established in 1854 and has been bred ever since with the greatest care, importing new blood as required. Previous to 1854, Mr. Smith bred Leicester sheep in Scotland. The Leicesters from Maple Grove Farm have been exhibited in both 1895 and 1896, winning first prize both for flock and individuals at Toronto and the other larger shows of Canada, wherever shown. They report their show flock to be even better this year than on previous years, being strengthened by the importation of first-prize shearing Leicester ewes at the Royal Show, Manchester, Eng.

The Oak Pruner.

From an entomological standpoint, the summer of 1896 was marked by an unusual abundance of the oak pruner in eastern and central Massachusetts, says Mr. Kirkland in a Massachusetts bulletin.

The red oak suffered most severely, but the white and scarlet oaks were not wholly exempt from the ravages of this beetle, while in some cases the sugar and red maples and hickories were attacked either by this insect or by one of identical habits. The presence of the borer is shown by the falling of living branches which have been severed from the tree by a clean cut. By splitting the severed end of a fallen branch, the insect causing the damage may be readily found,—a slender white or yellowish white grub with black mouth parts.

The eggs are said to be laid by the parent beetle in early summer upon the young growing lateral twigs, at a distance varying from a few inches to a foot or more from the main branch. Probably but a single egg is laid on each lateral twig. Upon the hatching of the egg the young grub or larva burrows downward in the twig, leaving but a thin shell of bark and wood.

When the branch is reached, a burrow is made beneath the bark for the larva. The latter then retreats into its burrow, plugs it with chips and feeds within the branch. Winds soon break the weakened branch from the tree, and in the fallen branches the larva feed until fall, when the majority transforms into pupae from which the mature beetles emerge the following spring.

Concerning the time occupied by this borer in passing through its various transformations, there are many statements of a contradictory character. It would appear that the time may vary from one to four years, although the writer believes that one year is the rule in this region.

As natural enemies of the oak pruner, Mr. F. H. Mosher records the downy wood-pecker, the blue jay and the chickadee. I have found a spider, determined by Mr. J. H. Emerson as *Theridion tepidariorum* C. Koch, feeding upon the mature insects.

Preventive measures are the only ones of value in combating this insect. The fallen branches should be gathered and burned at once, thus destroying the borers which otherwise might transform and appear as beetles the following year. A common mistake made by many property owners is that of gathering the infested branches and leaving them on some convenient rubbish heap. This procedure is worse than useless, since under such conditions the transformations of the borer are not hindered.

Garget in Cows.

Garget is simply an inflammation of the udder, usually affecting one or more of the quarters; sometimes, however, in very severe cases, affecting the whole system. The affected part becomes swollen and inflamed, very tender and painful, and of an unusually high temperature. The milk coagulates in the udder and produces inflammation wherever it is deposited. It is most liable to occur in young cows just before calving, especially where they are large milkers and are in high condition.

Failing to milk a cow clean will sometimes bring on the garget, and neglect for a few days after calving or when the cow is drying off, or the milking is abruptly stopped for other reasons, will also have a tendency to produce it. We have known dealers and exhibitors of dairy stock at fairs to permit cows to be left from sixteen to twenty-four hours without milking in order to give them the appearance of being very heavy milkers. This, we believe, is a barbarous practice, and at the same time liable to bring on garget, says a bulletin of the Maine Board.

In addition to the causes already given there are other causes for garget, among which are injuries, such as blows, kicks or bruises even by the head or teeth of the calf, pulling or dragging upon the teats when milking, etc. But we think that among the most prevalent causes of garget at the present time may be men-

tioned taking cold by wading in cold water, lying on the wet ground, or on snow or cold stones, and exposure to cold rains. And we may say, finally, that whatever induces derangement of the health of the animal system and creates fever will tend to produce garget.

For preventives, we would suggest a lukewarm bran mash or gruel for the cow for three or four days after calving; and in cases where the udder is gorged or there appears to be a large quantity of milk stored, it may be found well to milk the cow before calving. Sweet oil well rubbed in helps often to soften the gland tissues in such cases. In serious cases where the disease is very obstinate, tincture of iodine will be found very beneficial, added to camphorated spirits of wine in the quantity of one part iodine to four parts of the latter. Frequent rubbing of the udder in very warm water, as hot as can be borne by the hand, then rubbing it thoroughly dry before leaving, will be found beneficial in slight cases. It may be necessary, and is often advisable, to give a dose of purging medicine, such as from three-fourths of a pound to a pound of Epsom salts mixed with half an ounce of powdered ginger, dissolved in a quart of boiling water to which a gill or more of molasses is added, and then given to the cow lukewarm.

Mr. Bowker's View of the Milk Situation.

ED. MASS. PLOUGHMAN: DEAR SIR:—For the purpose of illustration I will use round numbers as being more easily understood. We will say that in the month of June the milk producers shipped into the Boston market 1,000,000 cans of milk, that there was sold of this 1,000,000 cans of milk 700,000 cans, which left a surplus of 300,000 cans not required. For these 300,000 cans of milk not required there was allowed 11 cents per can, or \$33,000.

Now the question for the farmers to decide is whether they had rather have that 300,000 cans on their farms and turn it into veal, pork or butter, or send it all from the farm and have it returned to them in money. By which method can the producer secure the greatest amount of benefit—by taking the 11 cents per can in cash and having it in ready money and send their milk into the market, or keep it at home and turn it into cash by some other method. If this \$33,000 which was received for the surplus milk were divided amongst the 3300 daily recorded members of the union, it would amount to \$10 a piece for the month on an average. That being the case, how much can the producers afford to put into a general fund which shall arrange to do away with this surplus and at the same time keep up the price of milk?

This question of the surplus should be carefully considered by the farmers in all its points, for there is nothing to gain by having one portion of the producers retain their milk at home and another portion sending all their milk into Boston, thereby reaping the benefit wholly to themselves which is gained by the portion who retain their milk at home. It must be decided one way or another, and then all the members of the union act as a unit.

Another view of the case is this: We will say that the average price of milk received at all sections for the June milk was 21 cents. If an arrangement could have been perfected whereby the 300,000 cans of extra milk could have been disposed of so as to allow the producers the same price per can as for the milk sold, it would have given them \$30,000 to be divided amongst them more than what they secured.

How large a fund are the producers willing to raise to provide a way of securing this extra money? The business manager would present the two following plans in order that the members of the union may be thinking the matter over carefully, criticize them sharply, and by having an idea given wisely discuss it so that the best plan possible may be adopted.

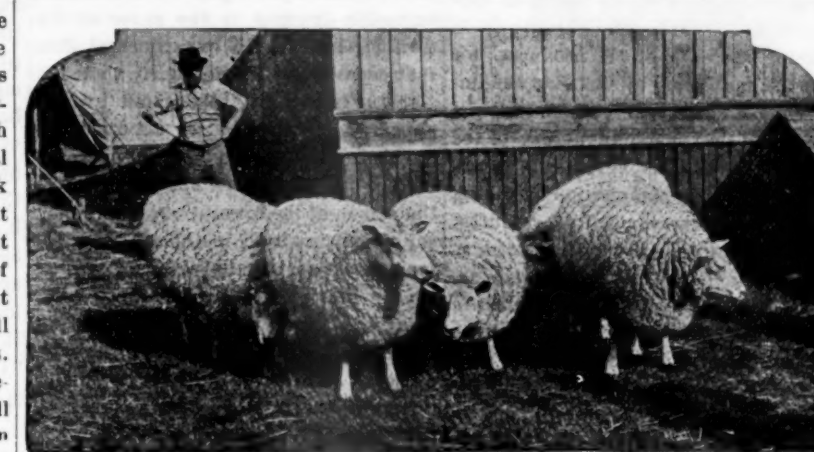
Plan first is, that a sufficient sum of money shall be raised by subscription which will permit of the hiring or erection of a central milk depot in the Bos-

ton market to be used as a safety valve in the market. That the milk shall be sold to the contractors at such prices as the market can afford, with the understanding that all surplus milk which they have shall be sent into the central depot. That they shall take such milk as they can sell and allow a straight price for, and the balance shall be sent to the central depot and taken care of by the officers of the union, and put on to the market in such form as will return the money to the producers. The contractors will thereby be required to return a straight price for all the milk which they have. They can secure extra milk whenever it is needed from the union depot. The union will then have men right upon the grounds to see whether the milk is sent into the market sweet or sour, and if there is any money in the surplus milk the farmers will reap the benefit of it, and I unhesitatingly state that to the best of my knowledge and belief there has been good money in the surplus milk for the contractors, for any reasonable business man would say at once, if there had not been the contractors, with the power which they have, would have promptly stopped the surplus and refuse to take only such milk as they could sell. The depot could also be used to handle the milk of members who are suddenly shut off from sending to the contractors until the grievance or point of disagreement was settled, and as I stated before, this depot would be a safety valve for the protection of the producers of the milk in the Boston market; and while I dislike to disagree with those who are much older and who have so much more experience in this business than I, I do not believe that the producers will ever gain their point or ever receive proper protection, or the solution of the milk problem in Boston be arrived at until such time as a milk depot is established by the union.

Plan second is: That the contractors shall only purchase such milk from the farmers within the present territory from which milk is taken, as they can sell plus five per cent of the sales additional which is to be carried by the contractors to provide against any sudden increase in the demand for milk on any day. That they shall take no milk from any farmer who produces less than two cans per day. That all milk purchased upon this territory in addition to what is required by the contractors by this plan shall be considered as surplus and shall be retained at home by the producers in the following proportion:

Each person producing five cans per day or over, to retain one can per day for each five cans which he produces, or if that does not take care of the surplus, every person producing four cans per day shall retain one can in each four of the number of cans of milk each day which he produces, the same can be used upon the farm or made into a marketable product by such method as he may decide, provided that the same shall not be sent in the form of milk into the Boston market, and that this proportion shall be based and decided upon by the amount of milk sent in by his farm the month previous to the month in which such proportion is decided upon. In that way the market will be best accommodated and the contractors will be sure of a plentiful supply of milk, as any person who is following the milk schedule for the past three months can easily see that figuring upon such basis there would have been milk enough to supply the contractors through the summer months when milk is short.

The only thing which can be said in favor of the second plan as against the first plan is that it takes less money immediately out of the producers. I advance these ideas not that they are the best which can be created, but that they are the best which I can plan at the present time. Neither my health nor my business will permit of my remaining much longer in the position which I now occupy, but I have the interest of the producers much at heart and should like when retiring from my present position to feel that there was a way shown for the solution of this difficult and vexatious problem, and that the



PURE BRED LEICESTER SHEEP.
BRED AND OWNED BY JAMES S. SMITH, MAPLE GROVE, ONT.

producers of the New England States were on the highway to success in the way of marketing their milk at a living price.

In order to successfully carry out either of the above plans a fund must be provided by some method to be placed in the hands of a competent committee to disburse in putting any plan into operation which shall be of such size as to make such a movement a success.

Are you ready to do? that is the first question; if answered in the affirmative, then how large a fund shall be raised? Consider wisely and well before you act, then act together. JOHN R. BOWKER.

Cream of the Bulletins.

NOTES ON TOMATOES.
In Bulletin 42 of the New Hampshire College Agricultural Experiment Station Professor F. W. Rane discusses the development of the tomato. He says that there is probably no plant we have so much literature upon, and that has been studied so thoroughly from the stand-point of plant breeding, as the tomato. This is doubtless due to the fact that it is easily grown, commonly used, and offers exceptionally good opportunity for study.

The tomato plant is quickly susceptible to careful selection, and it is by this that value is given to cross results, whether natural or mechanical.

In selecting tomato seed it has been demonstrated that the plant as a whole has more hereditary influence than the character of the individual fruit.

Repeated experiments have shown that nothing is gained by selecting seeds from first ripe fruit, regardless of the character of the plant from which they come.

When new varieties are desired through crossing, the foregoing applies equally to each parent. The more uniform and persistent the parent, the greater is the chance that its characteristics will be transmitted.

When the desired variety is once realized, it is kept only by constant attention to the selection that our varieties of tomatoes as a whole are so comparatively short-lived.

Tillage, fertilization, and other treatment of plants have their effect upon tomato breeding. Poor soils and insufficient cultivation tend to revert the variety.

Keeping quality evidently has not been generally taken into consideration up to the present time, in breeding the tomato. Experiments at the Cornell, New York, station go to show that solid varieties and the clustered, of current tomatoes, generally results in producing fruit intermediates in size. Crosses between the large or potato-leaved and common-leaved varieties usually result in an intermediate foliage.

The red varieties seem to have the power to stamp their color on the offspring of crosses with other colors. Varieties of tomatoes mix very readily when grown in the same field. Pure seed should be selected from isolated varieties.

When the parents are very different in character, the chances are that the offspring will be weak, while the offspring of closely related species of races is likely to be very vigorous.

The evolution of our cultivated tomatoes is interesting. The two species from which all our garden varieties have originated are *Lycopersicon pimpinellifolium* and *Lycopersicon esculentum*. The former includes the "Currant" varieties, which are small and borne in large clusters, sometimes spoken of as the "Raisin" tomatoes. This species is a South American variety, and is found growing wild both in Brazil and Peru. Although known for some time, comparatively little use has been made of them, except for pickles, preserves, and for ornamentation.

L. esculentum is the species from which our commercial tomatoes come. It is thought also to have originated in Peru, although it has been found in other countries, as in Mexico and California, in a form similar to the cherry tomato.

While the tomato is known in Europe as far back as 1561, but four varieties were found in England in 1819. In these early days it was grown merely for ornament. Prof. Munson finds that the fruit was first introduced into this country at Philadelphia by a French refugee from St. Domingo, in 1789, and again by an Italian painter, Come, at Salem, Mass., about 1802. The beginning of general culture of the tomato for market is placed at about 1830. From this time up to the present the evolution of the tomato has been steady. From the flat, rough and angular tomato beautiful, round, regular fruits have been developed. The Paragon variety was the first to be developed. Since then other superior varieties have come and gone. One would think further improvement almost an impossibility, but doubtless the advancement of the next ten years will be as great if not greater than that of the last decade.

THE SUGAR MAPLE BORER.
The cambium layer, the layer of living wood just beneath the bark, is the growing part of the tree and contains vessels which serve a function similar to that of the arteries and veins of an animal. The grubs or larvae of the maple sugar borer feed in the cambium and cut off the circulation of sap, says Mr. Kirkland in a recent Massachusetts bulletin. This results in the death of the trunk near the burrows, the bark falls off and areas of deadwood are exposed to the disintegrating influences of the air. In the meantime, however, the tree attempts to overcome the injury by throwing out an additional growth at the wounded places, and thus the gnarled and unsightly trunks are produced. An early yellowing and falling of the foliage is another indication of the presence of the borer and betrays the weakened condition of the tree. The largest or so-called "first growth" maples are nearly exempt from the attacks of this insect, possibly because the roughness and thickness of the bark may prevent the beetle from depositing its eggs. Younger trees, with smoother bark, are frequently attacked, and upon such trees throughout the state the ravages of the beetle are apparently on the increase.

As natural enemies of this insect it is probable that various species of woodpeckers render the greatest service. At Huntington, Mass., I have seen the hairy woodpecker, the downy woodpecker and the flicker feeding upon

white larvae taken from beneath the bark of maples infested by this borer,—presumptive evidence that these birds feed upon this insect.

The application of remedial treatment for borers is generally attended with considerable difficulty, since the insects cannot be reached by insecticides, and in the case of the maple borer, as with many allied beetles, hand labor is the best means for destroying the pest. An examination of the infested trees in September will reveal small discolored spots on the trunks, showing where the larvae have begun feeding. Masses of fine brown castings are often found on these spots. By the use of a sharp knife the larvae may be dug out and killed, while the burrows of the older larva should be followed and the inmates destroyed.

All exposed wood, whether living or dead, should be thoroughly coated with a thick lead and oil paint, to exclude the air and prevent decay. Dead branches should be removed and the stumps painted. Where the trees are badly infested it may be advisable to prune severely, for with a limited and weakened sap circulation they cannot properly support the normal amount of foliage.

The preceding suggestions apply chiefly to the treatment of infested maples which serve as shade trees. In the case of an infested sugar orchard it would be impossible and impracticable to give the trees the same degree of care, and here the main dependence must be placed upon preventive measures. If one will take the trouble to look over a number of sugar orchards, he will find that the ones most affected by the borer are those in which the underbrush and smaller trees have been cut, and the writer would suggest that here we have an explanation of the increase of this pest in the sugar orchards of western Massachusetts. Brush and undergrowth in a sugar bush interfere with the gathering of sap at the season of sugar making, and the practice of "clearing up" sugar orchards is one growing in favor with the owners of the orchards. Where maples have grown with trees of other species, and with a thick forest cover, the trunks are usually free from branches to a considerable height. When the forest cover is suddenly cut off and only the maples are left standing these trees soon become weakened, as a result of the altered conditions. It is a well-recognized fact that sickly trees are the favorite victims of borers of all kinds, and the maple is no exception to this rule. The clearing up of sugar orchards also allows the sunlight to penetrate to a greater extent than before, and the borers, being sun-loving insects, doubtless find a greater number of attractive places in which to lay their eggs. During the past five or six years the writer has had several opportunities to examine the sugar orchards near his home at Huntington and in other parts of western Massachusetts, and has seen repeatedly the clearing up of orchards followed by extensive damage by this borer, and is led to believe the matter is simply one of cause and effect.

Remedial measures may be briefly summarized as follows: for infested shade trees, cut out the borers in September, prune if necessary, and cover all exposed wood with thick paint. In sugar orchards, allow as much forest cover as is consistent with the work of sap gathering. In both cases, cut all badly infested and dying trees and burn them before midsummer, thus destroying the insects they contain.

Butter packed in tubs and held a considerable length of time, either in cold storage or otherwise, is very apt to show mold on the tub, either on the outside or inside, or both. No matter how sweet and correct the butter may be, such mold always knocks the price obtainable off from the top. To prevent this use tubs of seasoned wood only, as the water contained in green wood is exceedingly liable to be attacked by the fungus spores. To avoid this almost entirely, soak a seasoned tub in brine as usual and then sprinkle salt all around on the inside, rub in with the hand, turn the tub over and jar out what is loose, leaving particles of salt adhering to the inside and bottom. Salt is death to mold growth if enough is used.—Dr. Galen Wilson.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

BOSTON, AUGUST 7, 1897.

Persons desiring a change in the address of their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.

CONCENTRATE your efforts. THOROUGHNESS leads most frequently to a well-filled pocket book.

GOOD measure and good quality, with fair prices, means steady patronage from good customers.

VEGETABLES should be well cleaned before sending to the market to be sold. Nobody goes to the provision market to buy real estate.

FARMER SLACK always has good luck in raising a crop of weeds in his fence corners, without extra cost.

A cow that turns her food into fat is not the cow for the dairy. Milk is what she is kept for and milk must be the result of her feeding if she is to prove profitable.

THE quicker the farm products reach the consumer, the fewer hands through which they pass, the larger the price obtained. Aim to deal with the consumer as directly as possible.

THE date of the Boston Poultry Show has been fixed as Jan. 18 to 22, 1898. It will be held in the Mechanics' Building as heretofore, and all particulars may be obtained of Arthur R. Sharp, Sec'y. Taunton, Mass.

ONE of the advantages of poultry raising is the manure obtained. T. Greiner says he has a high idea of the value of poultry manure, and saves every particle of it. He mixes it with muck, loam or coal ashes and uses it with especial advantage for onions and other close-planted crops.

THE question of profits in dairying is only to be solved by a close attention to details and accurate figuring of the cost of production as opposed to haphazard methods. The difference in the cost of producing a pound of butter from good cows and those which are not is very well illustrated by the experience with the Minnesota experiment station herd, the figures, as reported, ranging from 10.8 cents to 13.2 cents a pound. How many farmers can tell accurately how much their butter costs them per pound to produce?

UNTIL recently, it has appeared as if Eastern fruit growers had the monopoly of the fruit export trade, but they are likely to find a sharp competitor in California in the future. There has been so much improvement made lately in the refrigerating apparatus used for transportation that all kinds of fruit from California can be placed on the London market in first-class condition, and shipments of pears, plums and peaches began from that state on June 29, weekly shipments having been made since.

THE breeding of horses for practical purposes is bound to prove profitable, for there is a good demand for the best grades of the general purpose horse. Outside of the United States, a new market is being opened in Germany where the American horse is meeting with more favor than in the past, supplying the market usually monopolized by Belgians. Horses which sell most readily in the German market are thick-set, working animals of the Percheron breed, with short, specially heavy legs. The hoofs of the American horses lately imported are pronounced better than those of the Belgians. Transportation facilities for American horses have so much improved that the United States can avail itself of this opening now afforded it.

In the attempt to rid the country of insect pests, there have been many importations which in the end have proved the remedy to be worse than the disease, the means being found ineffectual or transportation to this country having so changed their habits as to render them a menace to the crops instead of a benefit. The most conspicuous example of this has been the English sparrow, which on its introduction to this country drove away to a large extent our native birds, and instead of feeding on the insect pests which formed its diet in other lands, it turned its attention to more valuable food. But all the importations have not been so disastrous. The introduction of the Australian lady-bird has probably saved the orange groves of California from extinction; and if the vine-growers of Europe had imported into their vineyards the parasite (*Diplosis grassei*) which keeps down the Phylloxera in the vineyards of this country, it would no doubt have saved many a valuable European vineyard from destruction. The introduction of a European predaceous beetle (*Clerus formicarius*) is saving from destruction the spruce forests of the United States, which formerly were dying out at a fearful rate, owing to the attacks of bark-boring and wood-boring larvae. The clerid larva searches the boring larvae out and devours them with avidity.

HOW'S THIS! We offer One Hundred Dollars reward for any case of catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

CURRENT TOPICS.

The western railroads are doing the heaviest business this year that they have ever done. The wheat crop of the United States, which is expected to feed the world this year, has kept all the railroads busy transporting it and every car that can possibly be obtained for the purpose is pressed into service. One road reports that its grain traffic has increased forty per cent in three weeks, and other roads tell similar stories. Prices are better, being fifteen to twenty cents more than last year. The reports from the corn crop are not as encouraging. That of Kansas will be considerably cut down, a large strip of territory in that state showing the corn badly damaged, while Iowa will not have over seventy-five per cent of last year's crop. Here in the East the wet weather, in connection with the hot weather preceding it, has proved disastrous. The reports show that hay, potatoes, tobacco and other crops have suffered severely.

The reports from Alaska are fully as glowing as they have been in the past. Every means of transportation is being used to reach the land of gold and the touch of the gold fever is felt all over the country. Most of the people starting for Alaska have no conception of the experiences awaiting them and it is certain that large numbers will perish on account of their lack of forethought and judgment. The natives are getting rich transporting the provisions and outfits of the miners to the Klondike region, selling their services to the highest bidder. A late report says that a lake of almost pure petroleum has been discovered in Alaska, only two miles from the coast, and a company formed in Seattle to handle the product. It is reported that the mounted police of the North-west territory are meeting all people bound for the Yukon country at the British line and compelling all who have not a year's supply of provisions to return to the coast. Every one is warned not to attempt to enter the Yukon country before next spring. Even those who are at Skagway or Dyea will not be able to reach the interior this winter.

A very encouraging feature of the miners' strike is that as yet there has been no violence of any kind and all the proceedings have been strictly within the law. The large mass meetings have been orderly and the leaders have seemingly profited by their past experience when by violence and lawlessness they have lost popular sympathy. At Pittsburgh, it was calculated that 5000 miners joined in a mass meeting. Various camps are established about that city and strenuous efforts are being made to keep all the men out of the mines, detachments numbering several hundred gathering near the entrance to the mines and doing all they can within the law to persuade the men from going to work. One of the leaders has been arrested on a charge of riot and unlawful assemblage and much excitement was caused by it. The situation is a critical one and any unwise move may precipitate matters. The situation in Virginia is considered more favorable by the miners.

A subject which is attracting the attention of scholars the world over is the discovery of six tablets giving a description of the creation of the world. These tablets were discovered at Nineveh under the ruins of the great palace of Sennacherib by Prof. Smith, the famous English Assyriologist, where they had lain, hidden from the sight of man, for more than two thousand years. Most of the ancient records shedding light upon the early history of mankind have been found in the ruins of this city. The tablets found are supposed to have been written in 2500 B. C., in the cuneiform language, and in uniform order, each continuing the story where the other left off. Although the history of the creation as told in the Bible, which was written two thousand years after these tablets, differs in detail somewhat from the account just discovered, yet in the main, the latter confirms, rather than contradicts the statements of the Bible. Wonderful as these discoveries are, they do not shake the historical foundation of the book of Genesis.

Among the latest reports from Hawaii is the news that a protectorate is to be declared and the American flag raised over the Sandwich Islands, this being done to protect Hawaii from the Japanese, until the annexation matter can be settled which must now be postponed until Congress meets next winter. This report is positively denied, however, at the state department. Japan would much prefer to have Hawaii independent. The trouble which has arisen over the Japanese who have emigrated to the Sandwich Islands is to be settled by arbitration, Japan having lately agreed to this. It is reported that the Japanese government is seriously embarrassed financially owing to the rapid pace at which the nation has been going since the war with China. Civilization has necessitated increased expenditures in every direction, particularly in building railroads, telegraph lines, new government buildings, improving harbors and strengthening the army and navy. The treasury was not directly benefited by the big war indemnity paid by China, because it has been kept in England to pay for warships and armament. Owing to the increased expenditures during the past year all the government's reserve funds are exhausted.

An important work being done which is but little known because so quietly accomplished, is that of the U. S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries, which is devoting itself especially to the propagation of fish and lobsters. On the New England coast nearly half a billion eggs of the lobster, cod, mackerel and other marine species were collected during the season just finished, and the resultant fry planted on their natural spawning grounds. In this work the coast was covered from Maine to Rhode Island. The operations were economically carried on by detaching men from island stations where work was light, and extended from Maine to Rhode Island. Attention is also being paid to the trout stations in the interior as well as to increasing the output of Atlantic and landlocked salmon in the State of Maine. The important lake fisheries have been fostered, and last season the collection of lake trout eggs showed an increase of 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 over the preceding season.

Fullly 10,000 people turned out Tuesday evening to honor young Edward Ten Eyck, the amateur rowing champion of the world, who won the diamond sculls at the Henley regatta on the Thames and who has received ovations at New York and his home in Worcester since his recent return. Faneuil Hall had been engaged for the demonstration and it was packed full to overflowing. Here speeches were made by Mayor Quincy, Representative Kelher, presiding, Mr. Aborn of Worcester and others. One speaker said, "His courage was something grand. He went across quietly, and he came back home on an American flag, wrapped in an American flag. He received an ovation when he landed in New York, and 70,000 of his fellow citizens welcomed him back to Worcester. This victory of his has done more for American boating than anything in many, many years." The diamond sculls, the gold goblet and the banner were on exhibition for half an hour after the reception.

OLDEST, BEST.

Comer's Commercial College

LEAST EXPENSIVE.

Experienced teachers; superior course of study; individual instruction; positions for pupils; special three months' course for advanced pupils; reduced tuition fees for 57th school year, beginning SEPT. 7th, 1897.

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COMER'S COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, 666 WASHINGTON STREET, Boston, Mass.

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Country Real Estate.

The poultry farm of M. I. McAllister in Halifax, Plymouth county, comprising twenty-two acres with farm buildings, henneries, incubators, brooders, etc., on the main road from Middleboro to Halifax, with farming tools has been sold to C. A. Page of Beverly, who buys for a home and has already taken possession.

A tract of land on Calumet ave., in Wellfleet, Barnstable county, between the railroad station of the Old Colony R. R. and the Ocean beach, has also been sold to A. N. Bridgeman of Stoughton, who may build a summer cottage.

Mrs. Carrie Fish of Dorchester has sold her farm residence of twenty acres near Sherborn Center, on the road to Natick, to Mrs. Lucy Tibbets of Ashland, who will occupy the same and make extensive improvements. The property is assessed for about \$3000.

D. T. Coates of Middleboro, Conn., has bought the seventy-acre stock farm at the corner of Purchase and Summer streets, Middleboro; Mrs. C. P. Schofield has bought a farm in the lower village of Stow, and F. C. Osgood of Boston has purchased the Julius Burke farm on Central street, Middleboro.

State Grange Fair.

Any sort of success by the grange fair at Worcester this fall means a movement for an appeal by the farmers for a good state bounty for a state grange fair in the future, and there is little reason to doubt the success of such an appeal. Other states of less grange and agricultural importance than Massachusetts have their state grange fairs and receive generous assistance from the state. It remains for the grangers and farmers of Massachusetts to say whether the same shall obtain in Massachusetts.

It requires but a brief review of the premium lists of the State Grange Fair to demonstrate that the management is making the fair a grangers' and farmers' fair. The fair is a premium for grange and farmers' clubs exhibits are enough to carry conviction on this point. But there are several other features that appeal to these classes. None more than the rich, fat premium offered in the horse department for the "general purpose" horse. A premium that is intended to reach the every-day farmer. It is needless to say that there will be a warm competition for this money. The management, ever active to please the law lovers, have engaged "Myrtle Peck," the famous horsewoman who has heretofore delighted New England audiences, including those of Worcester. The John H. Gentry and Robert J. combination is heard of occasionally as falling to lower track records, but the extra inducement offered for the feat where they appear at Worcester, will tell a different story.

THE KLONDYKE

Adventurers will, a large proportion of them, suffer disappointment, lose the money invested in their journey, and after suffering great hardships, return to their homes poorer than when they started, provided they return at all. A safer and surer way to invest your money than in journeying to the Klondike region is to put it in the savings bank and leave it there to accumulate. A good bank to patronize is the WILDEY SAVINGS BANK, 82 Boylston street, Boston. Any money deposited there before August 15 will go on interest from that date. See their card in this issue. Mention PLOUGHMAN.

The Adirondacks were never so popular as they are this year. Possibly this is because they were never so easy of access. The Fitchburg Railroad through drawing room car service brings them into our door yards.

Read and Run.

—The tax rate in San Francisco is \$20.

—Professor Rand has discovered a new microbe.

—Oarsman Ten Eyck has returned to America.

—The new steel arch over Niagara has been tested.

—A cyclone killed seven persons near San Jose, Ill.

—A great petroleum lake has been found in Alaska.

—The training-ship Enterprise is now at Havre, France.

—A colored conference is to be called to consider lynching.

—Alaska's waters are rich with many species of food fish.

—A branch railroad is to be built to the Watertown arsenal.

—Large steel works at Muncie, Ind., have resumed operation.

—The bursting of a dam flooded a factory at Middletown, Conn.

—The English cricket team is coming to America in September.

—The eclipse of the sun was successfully observed at St. Louis.

—A new gas buoy has been placed over a wreck in Vineyard Sound.

—The old Boston & Maine Railroad station is rapidly disappearing.

—Some \$1,188,400 of Duquesne's bond issues have been found defective.

—The New Hampshire potato crop has been injured by the wet weather.

—The revenue receipts show a great falling off in liquor consumption.

—Secretary Gage's financial plan has been criticized by Eastern bankers.

—Matthew Marshall thinks that silver will not rise above its present value.

—The grain traffic on Western railroads last week was the heaviest for years.

—The State is making a resurvey of the New York and Rhode Island State lines.

—The father of Congressman Dingley died in Auburn, Me., Tuesday morning.

—The Tennessee Coal & Iron Company has compromised with its striking miners.

—England's consent to a monetary conference is said to have been obtained.

—Professor McClure of Oregon University was killed while descending Mt. Tacoma.

—The Treasury Department has rendered the official ruling that calfskins are hides.

—The lumber camps around Windsor, Ont., are closing up because of the new tariff.

—Thousands of acres of corn in Kansas are said to have been blasted by hot winds.

—New pension regulations have been issued making it easier for pensions to be obtained.



RE-OPENS SEPT. 7th, 1897.

THE COURSE OF STUDY is thorough, complete and practical. Pupils are fitted for the duties and work of every-day life.

THE FACULTY embraces a list of more than twenty teachers and assistants, elected with special reference to proficiency in each department.

THE STUDENTS are young people of both sexes, full of diligence and zeal.

THE DISCIPLINE is of the highest order and includes valuable business lessons.

THE PATRONAGE is the largest of any similar institution in the world.

THE REPUTATION of this school for originality and leadership and as being the standard institution of its kind is generally acknowledged.

SPECIAL COURSE. Shorthand, Type Writing, Composition and Correspondence may be taken as a special course.

IN business houses furnished pupils among the varied inducements to attend this school.

THE SCHOOL BUILDING, 658 Washington Street, Boston, is centrally located and purposely constructed. Office open daily from 9 till 5 o'clock. Prospective Pupils, H. E. HIBBARD, Principal.

Press Comment.

The anti-feather law of Massachusetts was introduced by a picturesque petition from the birds themselves, in which they begged to be saved from feminine vanity, but unaccountably forgot to mention the live bird shooting matches, in which so many of their race perish in cruel torments for masculine amusements. Even in neglecting their own interests the birds should not make this discrimination as a matter of abstract justice. —Baltimore American.

Worcester county farmers would bless this region and themselves by leading off their corn. They ought to get double present prices—to them—for their milk. They can accomplish that. Good milk is worth money and properly handled will bring money to the producer. Meet the buyer with his own tool, —organization. He has a right to that weapon and so has the farmer. But if employed intelligently and persistently it will prove more powerful in results to the farmer than to the buyer. Worcester county farmers should show farmers the country over how to do it. Organize! —Worcester Telegram.

Science holds the key to the future of American farming, and science just now is most ably personified in Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of Agriculture in Mr. McKinley's administration. It is without any hesitation that we express the opinion that the best work of the United States Government is going on at the present time under Mr. Wilson's direction in the various bureaus of the Agricultural Department. That Department is promoting the most interesting experiments in the improvement of roads; it is finding new outlets at improved prices for American dairy products; it is lending every possible aid to the promotion and culture of sugar beets; it is working for the cause of forest preservation and modern forestry methods, and it is doing a hundred other things for the welfare of the farming community. —Review of Reviews.

Of the \$130,000 available for the purchase and distribution of seeds by the Agricultural Department for the year ended June 30, 1897, all but \$2.20 was expended; and a report just issued by the Department tells how the expenditure was made. Of the total amount \$7809.62 went for the flower seeds—not a large percentage; but the Congressional seed business has been reduced to an eminently practical business, and aesthetics no longer count. In the way of free vegetable seedlings appear to have been in more demand, the Government having laid out \$12,607.35 to supply the breakfast tables of this country, while almost equally large sums were squandered on cabbages and turnips respectively, a filling sort of provender.

It is interesting to note, however, that of beans (which also have the filling property) only \$2514.08 worth was bought, a showing that will probably elicit a howl from Boston. On the whole the Congressional seed business is a picaresque function for a great government to which it sows are disappointments and scandals. But the tillage will go on until the people shall elect a Congress with honesty enough to rip up the whole horticultural fad by the roots and fling it over the garden wall. —Phila. Record.

The twelfth annual field meeting of the N. H. Board of Agriculture is to be held at Boar's Head, Hampton Beach, N. H., Thursday, August 19. The program is a full one, including an address by John D. Quackenbush of New London, N. H., on "Adulterating Affecting Farmers," another by Hon. Aaron Jones, Indiana, Overseer Nat'l Grange, on "The Success of the Grange as a Farmers' Organization," and a third by Prof. I. P. Roberts of the N. Y. Experiment Station on "Hot Plow Shares." The meeting will be held in connection with the East Rockingham Pomona Grange.

Nathaniel P. H. Willis, a man well known in the agricultural trade, died at his home in Chelsea, August 3, in the 85th year of his age. Mr. Willis was for many years connected with Jos. Brock & Sons and was long and favorably known to their patrons.

—De Armit's men are joining the strikers.

—Florida is raising pineapples.

FREE COUPON. Cut this out and mail it to the office of the Massachusetts Ploughman, giving name and address, for one package of WARD'S INODOROUS CONCENTRATED SOLUBLE PLANT FOOD. ENOUGH FOR 50 PLANTS. Your plants will blossom more full and remain longer in flower. The fragrance is increased and the leaves are much larger and of a rich, deep color. Enclose ten cents in cash or postage stamps, to pay for costs, to the Mass. Ploughman, - - - Boston, Mass.

EXCURSIONS. The Kennebec Steamboat Co. REACHES IDEAL SUMMER RESORTS. —IN— PICTURESQUE MAINE. Where Will You Spend Your Vacation? Learn Where to Go and How to Go. Stanch Steamers Leave Boston Daily—Except Sundays—at 6 P.M. Our new Summer Book, illustrated with half-tone cuts, describing the delightful seaside resorts reached by our steamers, will be sent free by mail on receipt of request, giving full name and address. FREDERICK A. JONES, G. P. A. - - Lincoln Wharf, Boston.

THE WORLD OVER. Colima volcano is on the eve of an eruption. —Great forest fires are raging in Algeria. —Premier Laurier has been honored by France. —Emma Eames has lately sung before the queen. —Great Britain has annexed the Solomon Islands. —Three thousand Brazilians were killed in battle by fanatics. —The survey for the Australia-British Columbia cable is completed. —Chile is to model her banking system after that of the United States. —The demand for American working horses is increasing in Germany. —Lieutenant Siegfried, an authority on ballooning, thinks Andree is dead. —England has consented to a seal conference at Washington this autumn. —Japan has accepted Hawaii's offer to settle their difficulty by arbitration. —A band of Australian gold seekers has been massacred in New Guinea. —Cuban insurgents made a raid into the suburbs of Havana, creating a panic. —Germany is not so much inclined to retaliate on American tariff regulations. —Edmund de Goncourt has established an academy to aid young men of talent. —An English syndicate has bought out the Lower California Pearl Fishery Company. —Japan is willing to arbitrate, but wishes to know what points are to be covered. —The steamer Tasmania was sunk off New Zealand; six of the crew are reported drowned. —The Standard Oil Company is said to have large oil wells in reserve in the Gaspe peninsula. —The bodies of missing members of the Calvert expedition have been found in West Australia. —The statement is made that Abyssinians will not join in warfare against the Mahdists, as desired by England. —The Goulds are assessed for \$2,621,000 in Greenburg, N. Y. —The Danbury hat factories are running overtime to fill orders. —Valuable gold deposits have been discovered near Rainy Lake, Minn. —The glucose trust has purchased a \$700,000 plant in Davenport, Ia. —Several persons were killed by a train wreck near Denver, on the Kansas Pacific road. —Miracles are being apparently performed at the Congress of Healers at Lake Pleasant. —An employee of an Arlington farmer fell asleep on his market wagon in this city and was hurt. —The cotton growers are more prosperous now than they have been in fifteen or twenty years. —The Quincy City Government has been asked to authorize the taking of land for a marine park at Hough's Neck. —The receipts at the Boston postoffice for the month of July last are \$5000 more than for the corresponding month in 1896. —One hundred house letter boxes in Brookline are now in operation, and applications have been made for nearly fifty more. —Japan's minister to Mexico says his country does not want Hawaii, and has explained why she opposes annexation to the United States.

DELIGHTFUL EXCURSION. PROVINCETOWN. The Popular Family Excursion. Steamer Longfellow, CAPT. JOHN SMITH. Will leave Commercial wharf (North Pier) daily at 9 A.M. Sundays 9:30 A.M. for a delightful excursion to Provincetown, arriving about 1 P.M., giving passengers going up the Cape ample time to take the afternoon train up. Leaves Provincetown at 2:30 P.M., arrives at Boston about 6:30 P.M. Excursion tickets \$1. Stop-over tickets, good until Sept. 15, \$1.50. Dinner and refreshments served on board. NO LIQUORS. ATWOOD & RICH, Agents, 85 Commercial Wharf. Low rates to Moonlight Excursionists. Boston & Gloucester Steamboat Co. NORTH SHORE ROUTE. DON'T FAIL TO TAKE A TRIP To Gloucester ON THE NEW AND ELEGANT STEEL STEAMER CAPE ANN AND THE POPULAR STEAMER CITY OF GLOUCESTER. Steamers leave North side Central Wharf, Boston (foot of State St.), weather permitting, week days at 10 A.M. and 2 and 4:30 P.M.; leave Gloucester at 8 and 7:30 A.M. and 2 P.M. Sundays leave Boston at 10:15 A.M. and 4:30 P.M.; leave Gloucester at 8 and 7:30 A.M. and 2:15 P.M. No 8 A.M. boat Mondays. SINGLE FARE 50c., ROUND TRIP 75c. COMMUTATION TICKET of 6 Trips, \$2.40. For further particulars and special rates for large parties apply to E. S. MERCHANT, Agent.

Bass Point, Nahant. CONCERTS AFTERNOON AND EVENING BY LAFRICAN'S NAVAL BRIGADE BAND. Boston's Favorite Seashore Resort. Grand Harbor Trip—Best Fish Dinners DANCING FREE. Every Attraction for Thorough Enjoyment. Weather permitting, Steamers LEAVE Lincoln Wharf, daily, until further notice: For BASS POINT—9:30 A.M., 11:00 A.M., 12:30 P.M., 2:30 P.M., 5:00 P.M., 6:30 P.M., 8:15 P.M. For NAHANT—9:30, 11:00 A.M., 12:30, 2:30, 5:00, 6:30 P.M. RETURN. From NAHANT, 9:00, 11:00 A.M., 12:15, 1:30, 2:00, 3:25, 4:45, 5:00, 6:30 P.M. From BASS POINT—10:30 A.M., 12:00, 1:30, 2:00, 3:45, 5:15, 7:00, 9:30 P.M. Except Sundays and holidays, Sundays only. FARE 25c. CHILDREN 15c. Take Ferry Cars. Special rates to parties. E. H. Seabrook, Supt., 201 Washington st.

A RELIABLE INSTITUTION. This can be truly said of the Bryant & Stratton Commercial School of Boston, which, as our readers will notice by the advertisement in this week's issue, will begin Tuesday, Sept. 7th. This school is the largest and most successful of its class in the world, and needs no recommendation from us. It stands at the head of all schools of a similar character, and the value of its training is attested by hundreds of graduates who are occupying positions of trust in the leading counting-rooms of New England. It can be patronized with the most implicit confidence that nothing that is possible to be done for its pupils will be left undone. —Florida is raising pineapples.

TALKSON GEESE. SAMUEL CUSHMAN, formerly with R. I. A. G. EXPERIMENT STATION, can be engaged to address Farmers' Institutes, Poultry Societies, Grange meetings and Agricultural College Students in any part of the country on certain topics relating to poultry production. Special attention given to Turkey, Goose and artificial Duck raising. For list of subjects and terms address, Fawcett, R. I.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

A HAPPY CHICK.

There was once a happy chicken, Who had lots of friends, they say; For he always was so jolly, With his busy work and play.

Yet he sometimes in the farmyard Had a rather curious way, Telling hens, or ducks, or turkeys, What he'd have them do or say.

"How I wish, dear Mrs. Dorking," He began to her one day, "That you wouldn't sit all summer On your nest in yonder hay."

"Let's go play in yon green meadow, Trimmed with outcrops of gold," "If I should," says Mrs. Dorking, "Then my eggs would all get cold."

"I guess not," said little chicken, "But what care we if they do! Eggs are truly good for nothing; What's an egg to me or you?"

"What's an egg?" said Mrs. Dorking, "Can it be that you don't know! You yourself were in an eggshell Only just three months ago."

"If your mother dear had left you To get cold there on the hay, You'd not now be here to ask me To go out with you to play."

"Don't forget, dear cousin Biddy, There is work for every day; First let's do our duty gladly, Then run gayly off to play."

—Child-Garden.

HOW ESTELLE RAN AWAY.

A TRUE STORY.

"I'm going to run away!" "All right! You get your hat, and I'll put up a lunch for you."

Estelle Seelye was just ten years old, and was, as she said, disgusted with washing dishes, feeding chickens and cleaning potatoes, and the day before she had decided to run away, leave her home, and go—she hadn't thought where. She thought she would tell her mother to surprise her, and was greatly astonished herself when her mother promptly gave her permission, and even went so far as to put half a pie in her basket. "For," she said, "I expect you will be gone some time, and I'll put up enough for two days."

"I'm going to stay always and always," was the reply, given in a trembling voice.

She tied on her hat, and Mrs. Seelye kissed her, and asked her if she "would not come and see her some time."

Estelle almost broke down, but pride came to her aid, and she answered, "I may come back to see you, but I'll never come to stay;" and picking up her basket, she trudged off down the road, not once looking back.

About a mile from the low-roofed farmhouse stood an old, old forest, like the "primeval forest" in Evangeline, where the wilds are always sighing and the shadows are always sombre, even in the brightest day.

Having wandered thus far, Estelle thought she would go in under the trees and rest awhile. The moss was thick and soft on the trunk of a fallen tree, and as she sat down and thought of the home she had left, and her mother's sorrowful look as she kissed her good-by, and the blind chicken that had to have particular care, and that always ate from her hand, and the little pigs, and the—Oh, dear, she hadn't said good-by to papa! And a curious feeling of loneliness and almost homesickness came over her. As she took a bit from her basket to eat, she could hardly keep the tears back; and all the while the soft, sweet summer wind sighed and whispered through the tall tree-tops, the feathery ferns waved and nodded at her, and every one of them seemed to point toward home. The birds seemed to be in greater number than ever before, though she had visited the place many times and gathered the flowers that grew in such abundance around her. She sat thinking of these things, but always her thoughts would turn toward home. She gathered a large bouquet, and played in the brook that babbled noisily over the pebbly bottom, making sweet music that floated away on the fragrant air and lost itself in the passing breeze.

Tired of play, she returned at last to the old log, and sitting down on a stone close beside it, leaned her head against the mossy pillow, and soon, very soon, dropped asleep, and in her dreams went wandering on and on, this time in search of home instead of away from it; but though she walked and walked, this way and that, no home could be found, and with a flood of tears she awoke, to find that "the shades of night were falling," and the curtain of darkness had enveloped the woods.

At home all was confusion, and anxious ones written on Mrs. Seelye's face. She had not expected her little girl would stay away longer than the dinner hour; but that had passed, and the tea hour also, and no signs of the straw hat coming over the hill. At last, weary of watching, she went to the barn to tell father she feared Estelle was lost. She was gone some time, and when she returned to her post at the window, she found Estelle quietly seated in the big rocking-chair, holding her hat in her hands, and gazing out into the gathering gloom.

Mrs. Seelye stopped in astonishment on seeing her, and was still more surprised when she said, without turning around—

"I've been down in the big woods all day, mother, and—I'm so tired, I—I—guess I'll go to bed."

"But I thought you had run away and weren't coming back!"

"I didn't think it was so far, mother."

Nothing was ever said about her runaway trip, but her mother noticed that the dishes were done without a murmur, and the chickens were fed with more regularity, and she hunted for eggs without being reminded every time.

Not till long after that day did Estelle tell her mother of her startling dream when asleep in the old woods. There is an old legend that speaks of the whispering in the trees as angels going to and fro, and when the trees are still the angels are listening. Do you think some angel whispered to her that some time she might be without a home, and in her dream showed her how desolate a homeless wanderer is?—Zion's Herald.

THE HOME CORNER.

FREE PATTERN.

By special arrangement with the BAZAR GLOVE-FITTING PATTERN CO., we are able to supply our readers with the *Bazar Glove-Fitting Pattern* at very low cost. It is acknowledged by every one that these patterns are the simplest, most economical and most reliable patterns published. Full directions accompany each pattern, and our lady readers have been invariably pleased with them in the past. The coupon below must accompany each order, otherwise the pattern will cost the full price.

MASS. PLOUGHMAN COUPON.

Cut this out, fill in your name, address, number and size of pattern desired, and mail it to—

THE HOME CORNER, MASS. PLOUGHMAN, BOSTON, MASS.

Name.....
Address.....
No. of Pattern.....
Size.....
Enclose ten cents to pay expenses.



Ladies' Basque with Two Under-Arm Gores.

The basque here shown is an ideal model for ladies of generous figure. The pattern provides for an extra under-arm gore, which has the desired effect of decreasing the apparent size of the waist while the soft fullness at each side of the vest front detracts from the prominence of the bust. The graceful fullness of the front and the seamless back are disposed over glove-fitted linings that close in centre-front. The seamless Y-shaped vest portion is sewed permanently to the right-front and is hooked over the full edge of the left. The side-fronts have gathers at the shoulder edges, the lower edges being disposed in overlapping plaits which, with the pointed outline, give a graceful effect to the waist. The back fits smoothly across the shoulders, the fullness at the lower edge being laid in overlapping plaits that are firmly tucked down below the waist line. The seamless back is not desired the basque can be made to show the seams as seen in back view of engraving. A close-standing band completes the neck with a frill of lace above. The sleeves are mousquetaire, the soft fullness being caused by gathers on the outer edge of sleeves. Short, full puffs caught up in a butterfly effect, drape the shoulders and the wrists are uniquely slashed over a deep ruffle of lace. As represented, figured barge was employed in making narrow black satin ribbon affording the decoration. The mode is applicable, however, to all manner of weaves and textures, including silk, peau-de-soie, canvas weaves, organdies, etc. To make this basque for a lady in the medium size will require three and one-fourth yards of forty-four-inch material. This pattern, No. 7112, is cut in sizes for a 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42-inch bust measure. With coupon, ten cents.

Up to this time we have had a great deal of color in our gowns and combinations which heretofore were considered too far too gay for street wear, says the McDowell Magazine. Violet and red has perhaps been the most odd combination, while blue and green, cerise and purple, black and gold, have attracted their own share of notice. Now that the weather has settled and has become perennially warm, such combinations as these are almost entirely abandoned and dove gray and yellow, slate gray and pale pink, blue and white lavender and corn color hold sway in the soft materials for extremely warm weather. A large variety of shades in green are worn, sometimes two or three shades in one gown, and often one shade combined with cream, white or linen.

Almost all of thin batistes, dimities, lawns, swiss and linens are made over colored slips and trimmed with ribbons, the same color as the slip or a contrasting shade. As silk is rather expensive for these summer gowns, the stores are showing a large variety of lawns in solid colors, which make a cool and durable lining. Some skirts have the outside materials cut away to make curved or pointed yoke effects, leaving the plain lining for the yoke. This is often outlined with a band of lace, insertion, or two inch wide ribbon gathered in the center to make a double ruffle.

The skirts are trimmed around the bottom quite a little. Three and four narrow ruffles, either double or single, with lace at both edges, make a pretty finish for thin dresses. The traveling gowns are sometimes trimmed with bias bands of the goods. Some of these are graduated, the narrow ones being near the top, while others use inch wide bands altogether.

Mrs. Rorer emphasizes the value of securing perfectly sound and fresh fruit for canning and the necessity of getting the cans and canning apparatus in readiness in advance. To prevent breakage when filling the jars, she says in the Ladies' Home Journal, they should be slipped aside into a kettle of hot water, rolling them so that every part may be quickly and uniformly heated. Fold a damp towel, place it at the bottom of a pudding pan, then near the

preserving-kettle; stand a jar on the towel, and if the fruit is small adjust the funnel; fill quickly to overflowing. Run a heated silver knife around the inside of the jar, to break any air bubbles that may have been caught with the fruit, and adjust the rubber, then lift the lid from the hot water and place it at once. If large fruit, fill with a wooden spoon, arranging the fruit so that the weight of one piece will not destroy the shape of another. Fill to overflowing with the liquid, water or syrup, and fasten tightly. After sealing stand the jars out of a draught over night. The glass by that time will have contracted, and the lids will, in consequence, be loose. Wipe each jar carefully and give the top an extra turn Put away in a cool, not cold, dark closet. At the end of a week examine each jar carefully without shaking or disturbing more than necessary. If you find the lids slightly indented, the contents free from air bubbles or froth, and the liquid settled, you may rest assured 'they will keep.' If you do not find it so, open the jar to prevent bursting. Reheat the fruit, being careful to bring it to a boiling point, and re-can.

The manner of preserving vegetables for winter is now so simple that one prefers to prepare her own and have them in glass jars, these being better than the vegetables purchased in tin cans and less expensive, for the jars may be used a number of years with the addition of only new rubber bands, says an exchange.

An important item is to make sure that the jars and covers are perfectly fitting, thus being air tight. When filled, they should be kept in a dark, cool place.

Green peas claim the attention very soon, as the early pickings seem the sweetest and best for canning. Wash the peas and reject all imperfect ones. Fill the jar with peas, shaking them down closely and filling it to the brim. Pour over the peas cold water, letting every little space between the vegetables on the water and the jar overflows fill the covers on securely. Stand the filled jars in a boiler of water, placing them upon a wooden rack or something to prevent their coming directly into contact with the bottom of the boiler. Place the boiler over the fire and let the water boil over the jars for three hours. If the water in the jars evaporates so the jars are not full, upon no account remove the covers to fill them up; the vegetable will be left as it is. If the cover is loosened during the process of boiling it must be screwed on as tightly as possible when taken from the water.

String beans may be treated in the same manner, except that less boiling is required for this vegetable. Cut them stem and tail from the beans and string them; then cut the beans into strips lengthwise and then in halves, or, if preferred, cut them into pieces about an inch long. Put the cut beans in the jars, filling them very full and pressing the vegetable down closely before pouring in the cold water; then proceed as with the peas, boiling the jars containing the beans a shorter time; two hours will be sufficient.

Ripe tomatoes may be canned whole, and kept perfectly without the usual cooking. Drop the fruit into hot water to loosen the skin. When the peel has been removed take out the stem end so no green remains. Pack as many of the peeled tomatoes in a jar as can be put in, having them whole, if possible, without breaking them. Turn over the packed fruit boiling water, pouring it in slowly, so that the liquid will run in to all the little crevices, and allow the jar to overflow before screwing on the fitted cover. As each jar is filled with the boiling water and covered, stand it in a tub, boiler or some large vessel that has been filled with boiling water, having the water deep enough to completely cover the jars. When all the jars are in the water cover the vessel holding them with a rug or a blanket and let it remain until the water becomes cold. As the jars are taken from the water tighten the covers if they are loosened, but upon no account lift them off. When the jars are opened to use the tomatoes the surplus water with the fruit may be drained out and not used.

This manner of preserving tomatoes whole has been well tested and without the loss of a single jar, the fruit coming out fresher and nicer than when cooked as in the former mode of canning.

Canned Raspberries.—Select firm raspberries, and put them into a colander, which sink gradually into a pan of cold water. Lift and drain. Arrange neatly in the cold jars, then fill with cold water, adjust the platters and place the lid carefully on top. Do not fasten them. Place a little hay, straw or excelsior in the bottom of an ordinary wash-bowling, on which stand the jars. Pour into the boiler sufficient cold water to come nearly to the neck of the jars, cover the boiler and bring slowly to boiling point. As soon as the water reaches boiling point lift each jar carefully and screw on the top. Stand out of the draught to slowly cool. Strawberries and blackberries may be canned after this rule.

When a cotton waist is to be frequently washed, and if not lined with a piece of the same goods or with white lawn, it should have a yoke, inside or out, or of the same fabric, and facing around and under the arm-sizes, this being where most of the wear comes, says the Ladies' Home Journal. Round waists worn beneath the skirt should have small holes in the waist and sleeves, which have the raw edges put together on the right side and a narrow seam taken; then they are turned to the wrong side and a tiny seam taken, thus hiding all raw edges. If cotton plaids are made upon the bias they are apt to pull askew in the ironing. In buying embroidery to trim such gowns remember that patterns having small holes wear the best. Such dresses should be washed out quickly and dried in the shade; do not use strong soap on them. Pique, linen, crash, etc., should be well shrunk before they are made up into waists or dresses. Allowance should be made, for they are apt to shrink.

Always turn down an inch and a half at the top of wash skirts, which can be let down when necessary. Use two threads half an inch apart in gathering the backs of skirts. Run a worsted braid along the under side of wash dresses, letting the edge barely show, and shrink the braid in boiling water before using it. In sewing on braid or velvet hold it, not the skirt, next to you.

Hip disease is one of the most common causes of lameness in children. This is not only because it occurs perhaps more frequently than disease of any other joint, but also because it begins so insidiously that the early stages, when treatment might accomplish most, are often passed before the trouble is recognized, says the Youth's Companion.

The first sign is usually a slight limp, which comes and goes for no apparent reason; there is no pain, and as the child can give no excuse for limping, he is perhaps reproved for what is regarded as merely a bad habit. There is a little stiffness after sitting, and especially in the morning on getting out of bed, but passes away with exercise. It may disappear for days at a time, and then return in a rather more pronounced form.

The child seems instinctively to avoid a shock to the hip by stepping on the tips of his toes, but when told to put his heel on the ground he does so without trouble.

After a while a little pain begins to be felt, and this, like the limp, may be intermittent at first; it seems too slight to have any serious significance, and the parents often speak of it as a "growing pain." At first the child hardly knows where the pain is, it is so indefinite, but soon it becomes more marked and is referred to the knee.

The limp and the pain are so slight and so inconspicuous that no alarm is felt, and so the opportunity of throttling the disease in its infancy is often lost, and the more striking symptoms of the second stage set in before a physician is consulted.

Now the little patient begins to have "night cries." Suddenly, in the midst of sound sleep, he utters a piercing cry expressive of severe pain; but he is not conscious of suffering, and may not even wake, or if he does he cries in a startled way for a minute or two and then falls asleep again.

At this time, if the child is examined, one leg may be seen to be a little thinner than its mate and perhaps slightly drawn up at the hip. The disease is now fully established, and while not necessarily incurable, is not much more difficult of management than it would have been at the beginning, when a few weeks' rest might have sufficed to remove all signs of the trouble.

The moral is, never to neglect a limp or a "growing pain" in the young.

A great many people suffer throughout the hot weather from sore and tender feet, which swell up so that it is almost impossible to keep shoes on comfortably and the burning sensation is most annoying, says the Prairie Farmer. Few people understand how important it is to keep the feet in good condition. Coming as they do in close contact with dirt and dust from streets and floors, and being encased in leather which absorbs all odors, they require daily washing. When the feet are sore and burning place them in lukewarm water in which a handful of sea salt has been thrown. Let them remain in it for a little while and rub gently. This will be found very soothing. Then wipe them with a soft towel and rub alcohol on with a cloth. This treatment will be found very effective in easing soreness of the feet. It has been tried and can be recommended. Sea salt is far preferable to other salt; it is not expensive, and as it does not dissolve readily it may be dried and used several times.

After bathing the feet always draw on clean stockings. If this is done daily the stockings may be changed easily and quickly and be ready to don the next day. It is always a good policy to have two or more pairs of shoes, so that they may be changed at the same time.

Blackberry Roll.—One pint flour, one and one-half teaspoonsful baking powder, one-half of salt, one tablespoonful butter and sweet milk sufficient for a soft dough. Roll out, sprinkle with blackberries, roll up and steam one hour. Serve warm with a sweet sauce.

Pineapple Cream.—One ripe pineapple grated and drained on a sieve to the stiffly beaten whites of two eggs, add gradually three tablespoonfuls of powdered sugar; beat until stiff, then add two teaspoonfuls of orange juice. Whip one pint of sweet cream and gradually stir it into the egg and sugar mixture. Add the pineapple gradually, not to destroy the lightness of the cream; chill on the ice and serve in custard glasses.

Raspberry Tapioca.—Wash one cup of pearl tapioca, cover with one pint of cold water and soak over night. Add another pint of cold water in the morning and put on the fire; cook slowly until perfectly clear. Pour this while hot over a box of ripe raspberries and turn into a pretty glass dish. Chill on the ice and serve with whipped cream.

Plum Roly-poly.—Make a soft dough as for blackberry roll; roll out, sprinkle with stoned and baked plums and a little sugar; roll up closely, pinching the sides together; lay it in a baking-pan and bake until brown. Wash over with the beaten white of an egg and send to the table hot. Serve with foam sauce.

Creamed Cabbage.—For six persons use two quarters of sliced raw cabbage, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one of flour, one teaspoonful salt, one-fourth of a teaspoonful of pepper, and one cupful of milk. After letting the sliced cabbage stand in cold water for an hour, drain it, and put it into a stew-pan with two quarts of boiling hot water. Cover closely, and boil gently for ten minutes; then pour off all the water. Cover the pan, and set it where its contents will boil gently for an hour and a half; then drain off all the water and chop the cabbage rather coarse. Put it into a frying-pan with the butter, salt, and pepper, and stir over the fire for five minutes; then cover, and set back where the mixture will cool slowly. Mix the milk gradually with the flour, and when a smooth mixture has been formed of the two ingredients, pour it over the cabbage. Draw the pan for-

ward where the dish will only simmer for the next ten minutes. Serve hot.—Miss Parloa.

Carrots with Brown Sauce.—Take young carrots for this dish. Leave them whole. Fry together two ounces butter, one small onion, two ounces ham and one ounce of rice flour, add three gills of brown stock. Cook fifteen minutes, then strain, add the carrots, and cook until tender. Serve with broiled beefsteak.—Amy G. Richards.

Glazed Carrots.—Cut some carrots into slices and boil ten minutes, drain away the water and cover with strong stock, add a pinch of salt, pepper and sugar, also a teaspoonful of meat extract to each one-half pint of stock. Cook until the stock is reduced to glaze, shake the pan from time to time, so that all the carrots may be covered with the glaze.—Amy G. Richards.

Fried Carrots.—Cut cold cooked carrots into slices, dip them in egg and bread crumbs and fry in butter.—Amy G. Richards.

Mashed Carrots.—Wash, scrape and lay in cold water awhile. Boil very tender in hot water, slightly salted, drain and mash with a beetle or wooden spoon, working in a large spoonful of butter, with pepper and salt. A little cream will improve them. Mound as you would mashed potatoes, and stamp a figure upon them, or mark in squares with a knife.—Marion Harland.

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—MISS MARY E. SAIDT, Jobstown, N. J.

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OUR HOMES.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DISCOURAGED FARMER.

The summer winds in snail's round the bloom of
leaves; trees;
And the clover in the pasture is a big day for
the bees,
And they lay a-wiggin, honey, above board
and on the sky,
Till they stutter in their buzzin' and stagger as
they fly.
The flicker on the fence-rail 'pears to just spit on
his wings
And roll up his feathers, by the assay way he
sings
And the boss-fly is a-whetlin' up his forelegs
for biz,
And the off-mare is a-switchin' all of her tale
walkers.

You can hear the blackbirds jawin' as they fol-
der up the plow
Or they bound to get their breakfast, and they
not a-carin' how:
So they quarrel in the furries, and they quarrel
on the wing—
But they peacemaker in pot-pies than any other
thing,
And it's when I gill my shotgun drawn up in
stiddy rest,
She's a full of tribulation as a yellow-jacket's
nest;
And a few shots before dinner, when the sun's
a-shinin' right,
Seems to kind-o-sort sharpen up a feller's ap-
petite.
There's been a heap of rain, but the sun's out to-
day,
And the clouds of the wet spell is all cleared
away,
And the woods is all the greener, and grass is
greener still;
It may rain again to-morrow, but I don't think
it will.

Some says the crops is ruined, and the corn is
drowned out,
And prophesies the wheat will be a failure,
without doubt;
But the kind Providence that has never failed
us yet,
Will on hand on't more at the twentieth hour,
I bet.
Does the melder-lark complain, as he swims
high and dry
Through the waves of the wind and the blue of
the sky?
Does the quail set up and whistles in a disap-
pointed
Er hang his head in silence, and sorrow all the
day?
Is the chipmunk's health a-fallin'? Does he
walk doleful?
Don't the buzzard's ooze around up there just
like they're a-livin'?

Is there anything to matter with the rooster's
lungs and voice?
Or a mortal be complainin' when the dumb
animals rejoice?
Then let us, one and all, be contented with our
lot,
The June is here this morning, and the sun is
shinin' hot.
Oh! let us fill our hearts up with the glory of the
day,
And banish ev'ry doubt and care and sorrow
far away!
Whatever be our station, with Providence for
guide,
Such fine circumstances ort to make us satisfied;
For the world is full of roses, and the roses full
of dew,
And the dew is full of heavenly love that dips
for me and you.

—JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

LINDA'S COMING HOME.

BY MARY A. DENISON.

"How old is Linda, Mrs. Shippins?"
"I don't know. Why, she was
born when I was twenty, and I'm sixty-
two. Of course Linda must be forty-
two. Good gracious! it can't be possi-
ble; but it is. An old, old woman,
and I wasn't spy at forty."
The person addressed sat near the
fire-place knitting. Her gray hair, very
abundant yet, was pulled together and
turned in a thick knot at the back of her
head. She had a weary, disengaged
look, as if expectancy and endurance of
trials had set an unalterable seal upon
her face. A thin cap came low on her
hair, and her eyes were hollow.

The person who questioned her was
Nancy Holland, a wiry little woman
who went out to days' work, and had
come to Sparrow cottage to finish the
ironing, over which Mrs. Shippins' strength
had given out.

"Well, I'm sure! and you haint seen
her for twenty year, did you say?"

"I did. It's twenty year since she
left the town, with her husband and a
pair of twins, the beautifullest boys I
ever set eyes on. They both died when
they were ten years old, an' she's lost
two more sense then, poor creature.
Now they've lost all the property they
had in the world, by the flood. So he's
gone to New Mexico on a small salary,
an' she's comin' here, I declare. I al-
most hate to see her, for she must be
bowed down to the very earth with sor-
row."

"Any children left?" asked chipper
Nancy Holland, whose usually bright
face had taken on a sombre expression.
"Yes; there's the two youngest,
Freddy an' Myrtle. She'll bring 'em
on with her. Much as I want to see
'em, I'm so worried for fear they'll be
lost to everything, as children always is,
an' maybe pert an' saucy into the bar-
gain. I'm so used to quiet; an' to have
them children rompin' and racin' in and
out! But they're Linda's children, an'
she's willin' to help me out, an' I
dare say we'll get along somehow," she
finished with a doleful sigh.

"You don't seem very happy over the
thought of their coming on," said Nancy
Holland.

"Oh, yes, I am dreftful happy, only I
am bowed down with the thought of
all our sufferin' for the last ten year.
I'm sure she'll be all broke up an' mis-
erable, though she sin't never wrote like
it, an' I'm just worried to death to know
how to comfort her. I've fixed up the
north bedroom, an' took out some of the
brighter things for fear it would make
her feel bad to see it as it used to be.
An' I'm preparing to mourn with them
that mourn."

"Oh, I think you'd want to make
everything more cheerful for her," said
the other, pulling hard at a lace ker-
chief. "I'm feared I put too much
starch in this. Would you rene it out?"

"No, I like it stiff," said Mrs. Ship-
pins. "If Linda's like me, I never
wanted the sun to shine when I was in
trouble, an' as to colors, an' flowers, an'
birds, I jist shied myself out of their
sight. They sort of mock one with their
happin'ness. Well, I guess I'll go and
make that strawberry shortcake. They'll
be here by five, Linda an' the little ones,
an' I do wish, Nancy Holland, you'd
stay to tea an' help me to bear my bur-
den."

"Why, of course I will," said Nancy
Holland. "I'm awful fond of straw-
berry shortcake, and I'm jist dyin' to
see you folks, and I (she hesitated a
moment) 'sympathize with 'em.'"
So it was arranged. The shortcake

was made in the largest pan the house
afforded, and was a marvel of beauty as
it stood smoking upon the sideboard.
The table was set with old-fashioned
dishes and cut glass that had been in the
Shippins family for generations.

By the time the travellers were ex-
pected, the supper, garnished with sub-
stantial meats, was ready, and Mrs.
Shippins prepared with an extra large
handkerchief to wipe away the tears
which she intended to shed as a part of
of the welcome home.

When the door was thrown open, and
a youthful-looking matron came in with
a handsome boy on one side and a pretty
girl on the other, Mrs. Shippins just
sat and stared.

"Why, you ain't Linda," she said.
"I'm sure you can't be Linda!" But her
face was caught in two firm hands, and
kisses were showered upon her cheeks,
lips and forehead.
"One kiss for every year, mother,"
said the woman, laughing joyously, "I
can't make it seem twenty years, though,
since I saw you last."

"Why, child," and the big kerchief
was deftly put aside, "you're younger-
looking now than when you went
away," her mother said.

"Of course I am. I'm a good deal
younger now than when I was sixteen.
They used to call me an old child. Why,
I'm every bit as young as those two
children. Catch me growing old!"
"Well, I declare!" and her mother
watched her as she threw aside her
wraps and helped the children off with
their wraps; "you don't seem as if you'd
ever had a care in your life."

"Oh, yes, I've had plenty, but I play
with care. I don't allow it to play over
my face and trample on my heart.
What's the use of living if you're going
to turn life into a graveyard?"
"But you have lost four of your chil-
dren, an'—"

"Oh, no, I didn't. I never felt for a
moment that they were lost. I simply
gave them into the keeping of One who
could do better for them than I could.
Lost! oh, no! I sometimes think they
are nearer than these two here. But we
are tired and hungry, and the table
looks so nice! Shall I go right into my
own room, mother? I hope it isn't
altered a bit. Come, children."

"Land! I wish I hadn't put away
them things," said Mrs. Shippins. "I'll
put 'em all back to-morrow."

It was a happy family party that sat
down to the strawberry shortcake. The
old mother stared like one in a dream,
Nancy Holland helped them all, and de-
clared that she never did see such well-
behaved children, nor a handsomer,
brighter woman, and there was new
life and beauty in the old house.

Mrs. Shippins had put away her hand-
kerchief with a sigh, for she felt that she
was cheated out of her sorrow. Tears
were not in order. That daughter of
hers could not look on the dark side of
anything. She reconstructed every
room in the house, and made them cheer-
ful with flowers and pictures and tidies,
and all the bric-a-brac she could muster.
Laughter and music had come with her,
—absolute determination to see good in
everything. The clergyman, who had
been asked by his devoted parishioner
to come on a visit of condolence, left the
house, and had a severe fit of penitence,
when it occurred to him that he had
actually forgotten to pray for "this our
sister in affliction!"

"But then," he soliloquized, "I don't
see where the affliction came in, and I
guess she is one of the kind who are
abundantly able to pray for themselves."

Everybody noticed the change in
everything except Linda's cheerful spirit
and sunny face.

"And I'm just going to make mother
over," she said to her friends. "She
has forgotten how to be young."

Mother made protest at first, but it
was very faint. When the children ca-
pered round grandma because she had
discarded the lace cap and allowed
Linda to do up her hair, she grew al-
most a child herself, and the years left
off all the time she was pooh-poohing
and pawing, till her next-door neigh-
bors told her she had grown ten years
younger since Linda had come home.

Roses in her bonnet! no, never! for
that she would not endure; but in her laugh-
ing way Linda insisted, and the close,
black frame gave way to a bright-look-
ing gray bonnet, with just a cluster of
violets. And presently the wondrous
change in the midst of all cheerful
gatherings, and where she had huffed
her friends, refusing to be comforted by
bright faces and merry voices, now she
brought her long-delayed rights, and wel-
comed them, along with her youth, back
again.

The children with their songs and
dances made her glow and grow radiant,
so that her dim eyes began to sparkle,
and her cheek made acquaintance with
the dimples of youth.

"Linda would be a young woman yet,"
Linda would say, when mention was
made of improvement. "You see she is
being built up with new thought,
brightened with new life-environments,
and made to feel that this earth is a
young and giddy thing yet, full of good
cheer and innocent, healthy enjoyment."

Folks listened and commented. In-
sensibly there grew up in the town a
wholesome love of the beautiful. Maids
and matrons benefited by the change.
Linda's coming had done it all. The
clergyman preached healthful sermons,
the doctors shortened their faces by the
sick-bed. The lawyers stopped their
conventional lies—well, there were only
two of them, and the bald-headed one
seriously contemplated buying himself
a wig. Grocer and baker and candi-
stick maker felt the change. The only
complainant was the undertaker, who
said business wasn't so good as it used
to be. But nobody sympathized with him.

And so the influence of thought, the
wave of feeling, rolled over and perme-
ated the town, sweeping out old ideas,
old edicts, old superstitions, and, best
of all, old age, and it was Linda's com-
ing home that had done it all.—Eleanor
Kirk's Idea.

One mounts to eternal life now,—not
in some vague to-morrow, but to-day.
Eternal life is a condition, not a period.
Live in immortal energies, in noble
purpose, in true life of soul; and one
lives, at once and here, the immortal
life. His soul has already put on im-
mortality.—Lillian Whiting.

THROUGH THE BARS.

Down the lane, as the sun hangs low,
After the straying cows I go:
The hawthorn hedges are full of birds
Singing their vesper songs without words.
From far away in a shady dell
Comes the faint tinkle of Bossy's bell.

So I wake the echoes with "Co, Boss! Co!"
As on through the tall, lush grass I go.
Slowly they follow the path or the bill,
Pausing to drink from a chattering rill,
Snatching a bit of the tender grass,
Cropping the buttercups as we pass.

The sun is gone when we reach the lane,
Night is triumphant; Day is slain.
The hawthorn's red blood has spouted high
And stained the lintels of the sky
Till over the earth, like the light of a dream,
Comes the afterglow in a rosy stream.

One by one flash out the stars.
To light our way as we pass the bars.
The milkmaid stands with her tripod stool
Out in the barnyard, damp and cool.
She hums a little song, soft and low—
A song with a chorus, "Co, Boss! Co!"

The sad, clear call of the whelpwill
Comes from the darkness full and still,
And the night bird in his wheezing flight
Harshly calls—"Good-night! Good-night!"
While far away where the shadows loom
The hoarse frogs croak and bidders boom.
—Farmers' Guide.

ABOUT A RING.

"Hallo, Cis!"
"Hallo, Jack!"
This is our usual salutation, or, to be
accurate, the first part of it. The re-
mainder is not verbal.

"You are three minutes and a half
late," said she.
"I've been busy—thinking."
"All that time! About me, of course."
"Oh, dear, no! About an abstract
proposition?"

"What proposition?"
"A question, rather. Why do ladies
wear engagement rings?"
"Some don't."
"Those who are engaged do, clever
miss."

"I don't." We had only been en-
gaged a week, you see.
"But you are going to?"
"Yes, if you please, kind sir; if it is
a nice one."

"Well, then, why should a lady wear
an engagement ring?"
"To show that she's engaged, of
course. Why do you imagine?"
"Because she likes jewelry."

"Oh, dear, no! I don't care much
for jewelry."
"Then you don't care whether the
ring is pretty or not?"

"No, I don't care. But engage-
ment rings always are pretty, you
know, Jack." She announced this as if
she didn't wish me to make any mistake
upon the point.

"Why, I understood that the fashion
was to have them quite plain now," I
observed solemnly.
"But that's nonsense. You must be
mistaken." I could detect a trace of
anxiety.

"I read it in some paper."
"The Football Star or the Referee?"
she asked, boldly. Of course, I read
other papers, too.

"Oh, no! In some fashion column, I
think."
"But it isn't true, really, Jack." I
chucked inwardly. It is so rarely that
I can get a word out of Cis.

"Just a plain band, with 'Engaged'
on it," I continued placidly; "some-
thing like a dog's collar with the name
on it."

"I call it ridiculous," remarked she
warmly.
"But, my dear girl—"
"I won't be your 'dear girl,' if you're
going to treat me like a dog."

"Oh, of course, if you don't like it—"
"It isn't usual, Jack," she said pit-
tifully.

"But if the only object is to show
that you're engaged—"
"People couldn't read the letters," I
explained cheerfully.

"Horribly conspicuous!"
"Naturally—to achieve their object.
You say the ring is merely to show that
the lady is engaged?"

"Yes. But engagement rings al-
ways have stones in them." She shook
her head and spoke quite solemnly. She
always gets the best of me that way.

"You won't wear the ring merely to
show that you're engaged?"
"Well, you see—mamma is a bit old-
fashioned, Jack—dear, I think she
would expect—of course it isn't any one
else's business—but if you think of get-
ting me one—there isn't any need un-
less you like it—"

"Suppose I've bought one already?"
"Oh, Jack!" She looked at me in
absolute dismay. "One of those new
ones?"

"Well, I should like whatever you
gave me—but—but—"
"You don't want the ring merely to
show that you're engaged?"

"Well, you see—mamma is a bit old-
fashioned, Jack—dear, I think she
would expect—of course it isn't any one
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absolute dismay. "One of those new
ones?"

HELPING PEAS TO GROW.

"See, papa," cried Roy, pointing to
his tiny patch of garden, "my peas are
coming up already!"
"So soon as this?" his father asked in
surprise. "When were they planted?"

"Only four days ago," was the an-
swer.
Mr. Howe stooped to examine the
little bed. The earth was loose from
recent stirring. Tiny shoots were
plainly seen along one short row.

"Rather slender for pea plants," he
thought, as he took a closer view.
"I had to help them," exclaimed Roy,
"or they never would have come up.
Every one started the wrong way."

"The wrong way?" questioned his
father.
"Yes. I think I must have got the
seed planted the wrong side up. I
started to grow down instead of up. I
found out by digging in to see what they
were doing. There was a long sprout
on every pea, but it pointed straight
down into the earth. So I dug them all
up and turned them over, and now every
sprout starts the right way. Don't you
think they'll grow fast now, papa?"

Roy's papa had a queer smile on his
face when his little boy looked up.
"So you tried to teach the peas how
to grow," he said. "Now let me tell
you something. Little boys make a
great many mistakes. Big men make
them, too. But the pea never makes a
mistake. You may turn its eye which-
ever way you please in planting, and the
first sprout that starts will strike down-
ward; for it is a root-sprout, and takes
the right direction to find food and drink.
A little later the stem-sprout starts, and
it shoots upward; for its work is to
grow into the plant we see above
ground."

Roy was quite surprised.
"Can't my peas grow the way I have
them?" he asked.
"No. They'll die if left as they now
are."

Mr. Howe dug up one of the peas, and
showed Roy the stem-sprout already
starting from its eye. Roy's face was
aglow with interest.

"Will they grow if I set them the way
they were before?" he asked.
"The pea is very hardy. Water them
well after you replant them."

Roy carefully dug up the peas, and re-
set them with the long sprout down-
ward and with an inch of soil over the
peas. A week later he showed the bed
again to his father. Strong plants were
bursting through the soil, and tiny leaves
were seen on some of them.

"Yes, Roy," said Mr. Howe,
"that the One made the pea and
gave it the power to grow, planned the
right way for it to start; and the faith-
ful seed never disobeys the law made for
it."

"I think the pea has taught me a les-
son instead of my teaching it," was Roy's
thoughtful reply.—Sunday-school Times

THE GARDEN BIRD.

In New Guinea there is a bird which
not only builds a house, but has a gar-
den, too. He is known by the name of
"garden bird."

This is a strange habit for a bird, is it
not? Perhaps our little ones would be
pleased to see how the bird-house and
garden look.

When he is going to build, the gar-
den bird first looks for a level spot of
ground which has a shrub in the centre.
Then he covers the bottom of this shrub
with a heap of moss. Why he does this
I cannot tell you. No doubt, he thinks
it looks nice.

Next he brings some long twigs from
other plants. These he sticks into the
ground, so that they lean against his
shrub. On one side he leaves a place
open for a door. The twigs keep on
growing, so that his little cabin is like a
bower.

Last of all, in front of the door, this
dainty bird makes a pretty lawn of
moss. He carefully picks out every
pebble and bit of straw. Then, upon
this lawn, he scatters purple berries
and pink flowers. As often as the
flowers wilt, he takes them away, and
brings fresh ones.

Now this is quite a large house and
garden for a bird. The little cabin is
sometimes three feet wide and half as
high. There is plenty of room in it for
two or three families, if need be; and
the garden is larger than the house. So
busy and tasty a bird as the garden bird
ought to be a good example to idle
children. The people of New Guinea
think so much of him that they never
molest his little dwelling.

You may like to know how this bird
gardener is dressed. In modest colors,
his back, his wings, and tail are olive-
brown; and beneath he is a greenish-
red. He is about as large as a thrush or
blackbird.—Illustrated Home Journal.

A Youthful Solomon.

"Dear me!" ejaculated the able editor
of the Ruralist Bazaar, knitting his brow
thoughtfully. "What remarkable ques-
tions some of our correspondents do
ask, to be sure! It is bad enough to be
called upon to tell how much of a
snake is body and how much is tail, and
what is the best brain food for an inspi-
ring young poet, and whether if one's
uncle had been hanged he would have
been his aunt's; and if it for a cold
winter when the dog's bark is thickest
on the north side of the house, and if
subterfuge will answer the same pur-
pose as feigning, and how to preserve
amenities so that they will keep all win-
ter, and how to cure a calf which stut-
ters so badly when he bellows that his
own mother doesn't recognize him, and
how to utilize a job lot of post-holes,
and how to make a bootjack that will
actually jack a boot every time, without
fail, and how to prevent that full feel-
ing after drinking lavishly of hard cider,
and how much of A and B must be used
from a given grindstone in order to bilk
C out of his rightful share, and when
pantaloons are going to come in fashion
again, and so forth and so on—it's bad
enough to have to impoverish one's
gray matter to answer such questions;
but now comes old 'Constant Reader'
and wants to know what a farmer can
raise and always be sure to have a
crop."

"Hoo! That's easy!" returned the

high-browed young office boy, whose
burning ambition was to some day be
an editor. "Tell him to raise chick-
ens."—Puck.

WRITTEN FOR THE MASS. PLOUGHMAN.

BERRYING.
When hay is over and corn is hoed,
Grandpa yokes up the oxen and takes a gay load
With lurchons to eat and baskets to fill
To the blueberry pasture on the hill.
And in the old pasture many a joy
And many a fight awaits girl and boy;
But of all the times of our northern climate
There's none so gay as blueberry time.

Almost before they reach the spot
The question rings out, "How many you got?"
How quiet are all when getting them thick,
For fear the others will find them too quick.
How frightened the girls when a snake they
spy,
How brave the boys when they after it fly;
But all pick away to the cowbells' chime,
And all are happy in blueberry time.

The day grows old and home they go,
Faster their well-filled pails to show.
Only fat little Joe has stubbed his toe,
And laid himself and his berries low.
And to a question from sister Liz,
Johnnie replies he has eaten all his.
But in simple country rhyme
Sing the praises of summer and blueberry time.
H. FOWLER FLETCHER.

GEMS.

He that of greatest works is finisher,
Oft does them by the weakest minister.
—Shakespeare.
Higher than fear and stronger than fate
Are love and faith that patiently wait.
—Selected.

Who hides a sin is a hunter who
Earns a reward a frozen adder with his breath,
And when he placed it next his heart it dies
With poisoned fangs, and stung that heart to
death.
—J. B. O'Reilly.

"So many born, so many dead today!"
"Thousands of angels passing up and down;
They come to us, they go to their crown,
And keep 'twixt heaven and earth an open way."
—M. Elizabeth Crouse.

Great occasions do not make heroes
or cowards; they simply unveil them to
the eyes of men. Silently and imper-
ceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow
and wax strong, we grow and wax
weak; and at last some crisis shows us
what we have become.—Canon Westcott.

The only faith that wears well and
holds its color in all weather is that
which is woven of conviction and set
with the shorn mordant of experience.
—J. R. Lowell.

Nature has given to men one tongue
but two ears, that we may hear from
others twice as much as we speak.—
Epictetus.

Why Sophia Wedded.

Sophia Smith was a well-known char-
acter in the town of A. She owned a
small house and a little patch of land,
but was willing to turn an honest penny
by going out for a few days or even
weeks at a time to do housework for
select families. As she was brisk, tidy
and industrious, she was much esteemed
by her employers. When Sophia was
about forty years of age she married an
idle, worthless fellow by the name of
Howe. Mrs. Baker, whom she knew, and
"helping out" during an attack of rheu-
matism, once asked her, "Why in the
world, Sophia, did you ever come to
marry old Howe?"

"Well," replied Sophia, "to tell the
truth, Miss Baker, I did it so as to
have the prayers of the church. You
see they pray for the heads of families,
the widows and the fatherless, and the
little children, but who ever heard of
their praying for an old maid?"—Sel.

Pain, Sprain, Strain.

If a cramp or pain, a bruise or sprain,
Should make a "big complaint,"
To knock you out and put them to rout,
With Johnson's Anodyne.

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THROUGH THE "EVANGELINE LAND" BY DAYLIGHT.



THE HORSE.

—Very little has been heard about the great pacer Frank Agan lately. Probably he is laying to surprise us.

—Nowaday, Readville's fast 2-year-old filly, is slightly indisposed and has been sent home to recuperate.

—Thomas Scanlon, of Boston, has bought for \$3,500 the four-year-old pacer Esperanza 2:11 1/4 by Hal Braden.

—Directum 2:05 1/4, after an extensive breeding season, is in training, and if he proves fast he will be campaigned.

—J. L. Sturtevant, of Worcester, Mass., has bought the pacer Ed. Valentine 2:24 1/4 from A. T. Jackson & Co., of Terre Haute.

—Five sensational green horses that have been recovered this year are Red Seal 2:10 1/2, Patchen Boy 2:10 3/4, Ura Strongwood 2:12 1/4, Search Light 2:11 1/4, and Vernonia S. 2:12 1/2. All are 3-year-olds.

—There does not seem to be such a scarcity of good horses as is represented. On visits to the many great sales stables we found plenty of first-class horses of all kinds, and we were told that a really good draft or family horse will bring almost as high a price as formerly.

—In the event of a foal being left an orphan when a foster mother cannot be obtained, and it is necessary to rear the foal on cow's milk, a little water and sugar should be added, or a small quantity of bicarbonate of potash. It should be fed often, and have small quantities at a time.

—Some high-class races were scheduled for this week at Dover, N. H. The Granite State Park of that place, under the management of its owner, Hon. Frank Jones, the track has been made a fast one. John R. Gentry and Robert J. started to beat the Granite State record, and another attraction was Miss Myrtle Peek and her riding exhibitions.

—Ed Geers is having phenomenal success this season. He has the whole or a piece of the money in almost every race in which he has started. To be sure, he has the pick of many well-bred horses, but he always seems to pick the right ones. His horses are seasoned for him on the track at the stock farm of the Messrs. H. Miln, for whom he drives.

—“A known stumbler should never be ridden or driven by anyone who values his safety or his life,” says an eminent authority. Architect, 2:16 1/4, pacing, and 2:21, trotting, was so bad a stumbler that no one in Erie county, New York, wanted him for a roadster. During the season of 1896 Architect won over two thousand dollars for Alonzo McDonald, and promises to do even better this season in his new role as a trotter. It is a well-known fact that many horses who trip while going at the walk or slow trot, never make a misstep when driven at full speed. However, as it is impossible to drive a horse at a fast trot or pace all the time, the animal who trips when walking or jogging is not an ideal road horse. Many trotting-bred horses are given to this habit, and the party who thinks it an easy matter to remedy the habit, must either be a skilled mechanic or a mere pretender. Should the infirmity result from such causes as a heavy forehead or from the forelegs being too much under the body, it is useless to think of helping matters, for none are so rash as to assert that they can change the natural frame of the animal. On the other hand, should the tripping proceed from tenderness of the feet, weakness of the ankles, or old lameness, it is rarely that such ailments are relieved or cured. Again, it is frequently traced to carelessness and idleness on the part of the horse, and in such cases no amount of whipping will make a quick, active animal out of a drone. It is an easy matter to determine whether a tripper has been punished for the habit. When the horse suddenly starts forward, after stubbing his toe, and goes into a sharp trot or canter, the driver may be assured that the habit is an old one, and that others have endeavored to correct the fault. As a rule, the tripping horse had best be put aside and another that is safer used in his place.

Best, cheapest, greatest labor saver, healthiest, safest, highest endorsed, all this is true of German Pest Moss. Try it for your stables, C. B. Barrett, Importer, 45 North Market street.

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(INCORPORATED UNDER MASS. LAWS.)
52 BOYLSTON ST. BOSTON
Money deposited on or before August 15th will draw interest from that date.

Notes from Breezy Meadows.

I fear I may get a “swell-head” on account of all the nice things said and written to me about my letters in your paper, and be obliged to have my doorways arched at top so as to get through without bumping!

One southern lady writes that she has fallen in love with me from reading my last letter and judges I must be about thirty years old. Oh, that this were true! I might then hope to live to see the goal of my agricultural ambition, my farm “seeded down!” Then if it were only a man who was so struck! By the way, I did get several offers of congenial co-operation from farmers who became interested in my ventures. Photos were sent, with requests for exchange: correspondence solicited, visits outlined in the rosy future, etc., etc. One southern farmer wrote poetically of their land of sunshine and flowers, and hoped to persuade me “to assist him in raising tomatoes, cabbages, and Irish potatoes for the northern and western markets.” And his closing wish was this: “I hope you are at least thirty-five years old, for I do not want a spring chicken!” But having long ago decided to play a solitary game in life, I will return to farming and say frankly that just now I'm tired out with it, in its every phase, and must get away for a vacation from hens, hogs, hay, heat, horses, hired men, horrors. I'm even weary for the nonce of my farm papers I read so assiduously. I revert to paragraphs concerning cholera, poultry moulting, need of “nitrogenous” food, red clover, Gypsy moths and dairy question, new pests in weeds and scales. More work suggested as imperative in interim between haying and fall rush! So I'm going away.

Let me review the spring work. I planted too much; always do. I have the finest corn seen anywhere. About how much, you ask? Well, eight ears in stiff fact, but in its present appearance to my proud eyes enough to stuff all India. Fodder corn in absurd quantities, “taters ditto, peas ditto, ditto. One of my men, the youngest, was sure he could make \$6 per week for me from peddling vegetables. I smiled cynically, but allowed him to plant as he would, saying I would give him all he could make over \$2. I might as well have said two cents. Our vegetables are always in perfection when there is a glut everywhere. We began early enough, too, with hot beds, and all that fuss, but seeds failed as they always do at first. We have had sweet corn a week earlier than our friends, and it is super-delicious. I notice that however facetious city folks may be over my farming they can dispose of an amazing amount of garden sass. They all discover a coming appetite which is slow to leave, and I observe I am more attractive in August and September than any other time of the year. Some young gentlemen climbers in the legal profession came out here last week and ridiculed my neatly labelled guide boards by each line of vegetable. I own the effect was suggestive of a soldier's cemetery. But I did want to find when asked why I put them up that I found it easier to label my vegetables than to answer the questions of ignorant men, who knew naught about beets, save a beat at base ball or a dead beat, always hoping for something to turn up, but not wise enough to point out a turnip in my garden.

I have made many improvements and have progressed the past three months. The Handy wagon from Michigan is a real treasure. The men say now, “I laughed considerable when you got that low-down cart, but it's the best piece of furniture on the place.” We added a high back, and it has carried big loads of hay. It's just the thing to carry anything anywhere. I approve decidedly of the Eclipse Corn Planter from Enfield, New Hampshire, and disapprove as decidedly of the “Stoddard” Churn, which with me is an utter failure, butter never coming in less than an hour; when with a small crank churn it can be brought in seven minutes!

One of my greatest comforts is an enclosure for my dogs surrounded by Page's woven wire fence. It is all that has been claimed for it. We have no buffaloes at present, but if we had, it would keep them in or out as we chose. I have two propositions to make before closing. I want to get together an agricultural library. I have at present two books. Any author of such a book who would care to exchange his book for one of mine will find me eager to swap. Next and finally I should like to welcome a score or two of the farmers who read the PLOUGHMAN, with their wives, at Breezy Meadows on Thursday, September 2d, for a box picnic, I supplying conveyances, drinkables and substantial; they to bring the dainty cooking their wives all excel in, and specimens of fruit from their respective farms. Agricultural editors specially invited. Those who accept this well-meant invitation will please let me hear from them soon at Metcalf, Mass.

KATE SANBORN.

—Several sugar beet colonies are to be established by Major Winchell, of the Salvation Army, on land in California donated by Claus Spreckels.

—Tea is \$1.25 a pound at Klondike.

THE TIMES ARE OUT OF JOINT. REFLECT!!

THE MASSES want to be **HUMBLED!** So they buy inferior and dangerous soaps to protect themselves from the danger of **WORTHLESS** presents, or else the dealer recommends cheap soaps on account of extra profit.

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Weather and Crops.

FOR WEEK ENDING AUGUST 2.

The weather conditions of the past week were of the poorest. Almost daily rains hindered farm operations, and crops, as a rule, are suffering greatly from excessive moisture and lack of sunshine. As to final results much will depend on the weather of the next week or ten days. The week was unreasonably cool, temperature falling almost to 40 in the interior on the 27th. The heavy rainfall on the 29th terminated a record for the month which is nothing short of phenomenal. At Hyannis, Mass., 3.52 inches fell in 4 hours; in Connecticut and Rhode Island the falls were from 2 to 4.5 inches; in the more northern sections the rainfall was lighter.

MAINE.

In Aroostook County the week was favorable for haying, but in other parts of the state it was very poor. Large amounts of hay in all stages of curing have been “caught” by rains, and more was housed in a damaged condition. Corn is doing well on light soils; poorly on heavy soils. Oats are showing rust and are lodged on heavy lands; looking finely on warm lands, where nearly a full crop is indicated. The potato rust has appeared on some fields. Poor outlook for apples. Native blueberries fairly plentiful.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Another very bad week for haying-making is the report. Only one day that was without rain. Large amounts of hay and fodder crops have been damaged; standing grass is badly overripe. Weeds and grass making great growth. Oats are nearly ripe and badly lodged. Much corn cannot mature. Barley ripening slowly. Potatoes are not promising. Apples will be scarce, and blueberries a short crop in general. A light frost occurred in the Connecticut Valley on 27th.

VERMONT.

Between showers last week an effort was made to secure that part of the hay crop not already ruined by the excessive rains. It was discouraging work, and the crop is heavily damaged. Oats are rusting badly; much grain will be cut green; many grain fields cannot be entered with reapers. Potato rust is reported in various localities. Upland corn is doing well.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Haying has continued under discouraging conditions, meadows being flooded for a third time this summer. The crop as a whole will fall far short of the usual yield. Considerable loss on tobacco is also predicted. In most towns are reports of potato rot. Corn has made a fair growth. Fruit promises well as a rule. The cranberry yield will not be as large as usual.

RHODE ISLAND.

Grains have been harvested in bad shape, owing to heavy showers; some meadows are not yet mowed. Potatoes nearly all dug; good crop. General appearance of other crops is good, although corn is somewhat beaten down. There will be excellent second crop of grass on many meadows.

CONNECTICUT.

Crops on sandy soils are looking well; on other soils they are poorer than a week ago. Farm work has been nearly at a standstill. All fields are so wet that nothing can be done. Corn and potatoes need sunshine. Much over-ripe hay will be cut. Peach trees were quite badly broken down by heavy storms.

J. W. SMITH.

Many amusing stories are told in connection with duelling. One has recently been told in which an English peer and a politician figured, and we venture to repeat it because we think it worth preserving. The peer, for some offence, was called out by the politician, and promptly responded to the challenge.

On arriving at home again after the duel his lordship gave a guinea to the coachman who had driven him to and from the ground. The driver appears to have been an exceptionally honest, simple man. He was surprised by the largeness of the sum presented, and said, “My lord, I only took you to—”

“Yes, yes; I know that. But the guinea is for bringing me back; not for taking me out. I enjoyed the drive home very much, but not the drive out. That is what I pay you for.”—Harper's Round Table.

If you are going to the Adirondacks this year remember that the Pittsburgh R. R. is the line to take. Through buffet drawing room car service.

G. A. R. tickets to Buffalo and return via the Pittsburgh R. R. will include free side trip to Troy for those desiring to attend the Army of the Potomac Encampment, August 30 to 21st.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS FOR 1897.

We shall be glad to receive information from secretaries relative to the dates of holding fairs not included in the following list.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Amesbury & Salisbury, Amesbury, Sept. 28, 29, 30
Barnstable Co., Barnstable, Sept. 28, 29, 30
Berkshire, Pittsfield, Sept. 14, 15, 16
Blackstone Valley, Uxbridge, Sept. 28, 29
Crisfield, Taunton, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Brookton, Brookton, Oct. 6, 7, 8, 9
Deerfield Valley, Charlemont, Sept. 16, 17
Hampden, Hampden, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Essex, Pembury, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Franklin Co., Greenfield, Sept. 23, 24
Hampshire, Amesbury, Sept. 28, 29
Hampshire, Franklin and Hampshire, Northampton, Sept. 28, 29
Highland, Middlefield, Sept. 8, 9
Hillsdale, Cummington, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Hingham, Hingham, Sept. 28, 29
Housatonic, North Adams, Sept. 22, 23
Housatonic, Great Barrington, Sept. 29, 30
Manufacturers' Agricultural, No. Attleborough, Aug. 31, Sept. 1
Martha's Vineyard, Martha's Vineyard, Sept. 25, 26, 27
Mass. Horticultural, Boston, Sept. 30, Oct. 1
Mass. State Grange, Worcester, Sept. 1, 2, 3
Middlesex North, Lowell, Sept. 1, 2, 3
Middlesex South, Framingham, Sept. 14, 15, 16
Nantucket, Nantucket, Sept. 21, 22
Oxford, Oxford, Sept. 21, 22
Plymouth County, Bridgewater, Sept. 15, 16, 17
Spencer, Spencer, Sept. 23, 24
Union, Randolph, Sept. 23, 24
Weymouth, South Weymouth, Sept. 23, 24, 25
Worcester, Worcester, Sept. 23, 24, 25
Worcester East, Worcester, Sept. 1, 2, 3
Worcester North, Fitchburg, Sept. 16, 17
Worcester North-West, Athol, Oct. 5, 6, 7
Worcester South, Worcester, Sept. 16, 17
Worcester County West, Barre, Sept. 30, Oct. 1

MAINE.

NEW ENGLAND, PORTLAND, AUG. 16-21
Androscoggin Agricultural, Livemore Falls, Aug. 25, 26
Buxton & Hollis, Buxton, Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2
Cumberland, Cumberland, Sept. 28, 29
Cumberland County, Gorham, Sept. 7, 8, 9
Durham Agricultural, Durham, Sept. 21, 22
East Edgemoor, East Edgemoor, Sept. 19, 20
E. Maine State, Bangor, Aug. 30, Sept. 1, 2, 3
East Somerset, Portland, Sept. 7, 8, 9
Franklin Agricultural, Farmington, Sept. 14, 15, 16
Gray Park Association, Gray, Aug. 24, 25, 26
Hancock Co., Blue Hill, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Kennebec Co., Readfield, Sept. 7, 8, 9
Maine State, Lewiston, Aug. 30, Sept. 1, 2, 3
Lincoln, Dunsmuir, Sept. 14, 15, 16
Iscoota, Iscoota, Sept. 5, 7
North Cumberland Agricultural, Harrison, Sept. 21, 22
No. Penobscot, Bangor, Sept. 14, 15, 16
No. Waldo, Unity, Sept. 29, 30
Ossipee Valley Union, Cornish, Aug. 24, 25, 26
Oxford North, Oxford, Sept. 22
South Kennebec Agricultural, South Windor, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Sagadahoc Agricultural, Topsham, Sept. 14, 15, 16
Waldo Co. Agricultural, Belfast, Sept. 21, 22
Washington County Agricultural, Bangor, Sept. 14, 15, 16
W. Washington Co. Agricultural, Cherryfield, Sept. 14, 15, 16
York County, York, Sept. 14, 15, 16

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Cheshire, Keene, Sept. 21, 22, 23
N. H. State Grange, Bedford, Sept. 14, 15, 16
Pawtuxet Valley, River Point, Sept. 22-24
Plymouth, Plymouth, Aug. 31, Sept. 2
Rochester, Rochester, Sept. 21-24
R. I. State, Narragansett Park, Sept. 6-10
Washington Co., Kingston, Sept. 14-17
Woonsocket, Woonsocket, Aug. 24-26

CONNECTICUT.

Berlin, Berlin, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Bristol, Bristol, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Bristol Fair Corporation, Bristol, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Clinton, Clinton, Sept. 22
Connecticut Hort. Soc., Hartford, Sept. 21, 22, 23
Danbury, Danbury, Oct. 4-9
East Granby, East Granby, Sept. 8-9
Farmington Valley, Collinsville, Sept. 18-20
Grafton, Grafton, Sept. 18-20
Guilford, Guilford, Sept. 29
Hartford, Hartford, Oct. 5
Killingworth, Killingworth, Sept. 14, 15, 16
Meriden, Meriden, Sept. 15-17
New Milford, New Milford, Sept. 14-16
New London Co., Norwich, Sept. 18-23
Newtown, Newtown, Sept. 28-30
Simsbury, Simsbury, Oct. 1
Stafford, Stafford, Sept. 5-7
Springfield, Springfield, Sept. 21-22
Tolland County, Rockville, Sept. 7, 8, 9
Union, Union, Sept. 21-22
Union (Somers, etc.), Broad Brook, Sept. 29
Wallington, Wallington, Sept. 29
Williamantic, Williamantic, Sept. 29
Windor, Windor, Sept. 13-15
Woodstock, Woodstock, Sept. 13, 14, 15
Wolcott, Wolcott, Oct. 13

VERMONT.

Brandon, Brandon, Oct. 5, 6
Rutland, Rutland, Sept. 14-16
Windor, Woodstock, Sept. 22-24
Vermont Inter-State, White River Junction, Aug. 24-27
Vermont State Howard Park, Burlington, Aug. 31, Sept. 1, 2, 3

NEW YORK.

Albany, Albany, Sept. 13-16
Albany, Albany, Sept. 13-16
Broome, Broome, Sept. 13-16
Cattaraugus, Little Valley, Aug. 31, Sept. 3
Chemung, Elmira, Sept. 31, 3
Chemung, Norwich, Sept. 31, 3
Clinton, Clinton, Sept. 29
Columbia, Chatham, Sept. 7-10
Cortland, Cortland, Sept. 24-27
Delaware, Delaware, Sept. 24, Sept. 2
Delaware, Walton, Sept. 14-17
Delaware, Sidney, Sept. 7-9
Delaware, Poughkeepsie, Sept. 21-24
Erie, Hamburg, Sept. 13-17
Erie, Lancaster, Sept. 13-17
Essex, Westport, Aug. 31, Sept. 4
Franklin, Malone, Sept. 14-16
Fulton, Johnstown, Sept. 29-31
Genesee, Batavia, Sept. 29-31
Herkimer, Herkimer, Sept. 14-16
Jefferson, Watertown, Sept. 14-17
Madison, Brookfield, Sept. 21-23
Montgomery, Fondra, Sept. 21-23
Monroe, Broxton, Sept. 21-23
Niagara, Lockport, Sept. 21-23
Onondaga, Syracuse, Sept. 7-10
Oneida, Oneida, Sept. 24-27
Oneida, Boonville, Sept. 7-10
Ontario, Canandaigua, Sept. 21-23
Orangetown, Orangetown, Sept. 14-17
Orleans, Albion, Sept. 21-23
Oswego, Sand Creek, Aug. 17-19
Oswego, Oswego Falls, Sept. 14-17
Oswego, Schenectady, Sept. 14-17
Oswego, Cooperstown, Sept. 21-23
Queens, Mineola, Sept. 21-23
Saratoga, Saratoga, Sept. 21-23
Schoharie, Schoharie, Sept. 21-23
Schuyler, Watkins, Sept. 21-23
Seneca, Waterloo, Sept. 21-23
Steuben, Bath, Sept. 21-23
Suffolk, Riverhead, Sept. 21-23
Sullivan, Monticello, Sept. 21-23
Tioga, Newark Valley, Aug. 31, Sept. 2
Tioga, Owego, Sept. 7-9
Tompkins, Dryden, Sept. 21-23
Tompkins, Ithaca, Sept. 21-23
Ulster, Ellenville, Sept. 7-9
Washington, Sandy Hill, Sept. 10-12
Wayne, Lyons, Sept. 10-12
Wyoming, Perry, Sept. 28, 29
Wyoming, Warsaw, Sept. 14-16
Yates, Yates, Sept. 21-23

Lincoln's Horse Trade.

Abraham Lincoln was fond of a good story, and it is a well-known fact that he often illustrated an important point in the business at hand by resorting to his favorite pastime. Probably one of the best he ever told he related of himself when he was a lawyer in Illinois. One day Lincoln and a certain judge, who was an intimate friend of his, were bantering each other about horses, a favorite talk of theirs. Finally, Lincoln said:

“Well, look here, judge, I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll make a horse trade with you, only it must be upon these stipulations: Neither party shall see the other's horse until it is produced here in the court yard of the hotel, and both parties must trade horses. If either party backs out of the agreement, he does so under a forfeiture of twenty-five dollars.”

“Agreed,” cried the judge, and both he and Lincoln went in quest of their respective animals.

A crowd gathered, anticipating some fun, and when the judge returned first, the laugh was uproarious. He led, or rather dragged, at the end of a halter he meanest, boniest, rib-staring nag—blind in both eyes—that ever pressed turf. But presently Lincoln came along carrying over his shoulder a carpenter's horse. Then the mirth of the crowd was furious. Lincoln solemnly set his horse down, and silently surveyed the judge's animal with a comical look of infinite disgust.

“Well, judge,” he finally said, “this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade.”—Harper's Round Table.

Wait for the Mud to Dry.

Father Graham was an old-fashioned gentleman beloved by every one, and his influence in the little town was great, so good and active was he. A young man of the village had been badly insulted, and came to Father Graham full of angry indignation, declaring that he was going at once to demand an apology.

“My dear boy,” Father Graham said, “take a word of advice from an old man who loves peace. An insult is like mud; it will brush off much better when it is dry. Wait a little till he and you are both cool, and the thing is easily mended. If you go now, it will be only a quarrel.”

It is pleasant to be able to add that the young man took his advice, and before the next day was done the insulting person came to beg forgiveness.

Winter Shrubbery.

Anyone planting a lawn or shrubs should first of all consider how to have it an all-around-the-year lawn. Most shrubberies are pretty only in the spring, but it is possible to have the shrubbery showy, bright and cheering, even in winter. The best winter shrubs are the barberries, including the English sort, which has become naturalized in many of our states, the high-bush cranberry and the red-barked dogwood. This last has fire-red bark all winter, and when it is ten years old will cover a space of twenty feet in diameter in moist soil. It is grand for winter. The high-bush cranberry is always beautiful, flowering in May, and in July and August is covered with yellowish red berries, which turn deep crimson in October and remain on the bush till spring. But for all bushes for winter give me a large Farberry. The berries do not lose their brilliancy with any amount of freezing. For early winter by all means add the American Eonymus. All the above shrubs can be found in our woodland edges.—Vick's Magazine.



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BITS OF FUN.

A WAIL.

We used to have old-fashioned things, like hominy and greens. We used to have just common soup, made out of pork and beans; But now it's bouillon, consomme, and things made from a book. And Pot au Feu and Julienne, since my daughter's learned to cook.

We used to have a piece of beef—just ordinary meat—And pickled pigs' feet, spare-ribs, too, and other things to eat; While now it's filet and ragout, and leg of mutton braised, And macaroni au gratin, and sheep's head Hollandaise.

The good old things have passed away, in silent, sad retreat; We've lots of high-falutin' things, but nothing much to eat; And while I never say a word, and always pleasant look, You let 'em had dyspepsia since my daughter's learned to cook.

Hicks: Does Henley take an active part in politics? Wicks: Active part? I should say he did. To my knowledge he has been running for office for the last ten years.

“I don't believe Longfellow ever knew much about children,” grumbled Cusmo at six o'clock in the morning, as a series of yells burst upon his ears. “Talk about the children's hour being at twilight!”—Harper's Bazar.

Recruit: How ye a pair av wornout shoes ye kin sell me? Dealer: What on earth do you want them for? Recruit: Shure, oi must hav them. The drill sergeant sez Oi must march wid me toes out.—Philadelphia Record.

Stranger (after an examination): Well, doctor, what do you think? Have I the gout? Great Physician: Hem! Er—what is your income?

“Twelve hundred a year.” “No. You have a sore foot.”—N. Y. Weekly.

“I understand you were punished in school to-day, Thomas,” said Mr. Bacon to his twelve-year-old boy. “Yes, sir,” promptly replied the juvenile. “For what?” “For telling the truth, sir.”

“Your teacher said it was for some reflection you made upon her age.” “That's the way she took it, father. You see, she drew a picture of a basket of eggs on the blackboard, and while she was out of the room I just wrote under them: ‘The hen what made these eggs isn't any chicken!’”—Yonkers Statesman.

Lunatics often assume a superiority of intellect to others which is quite amusing. A gentleman travelling in England some years ago, while walking along the road not far from the side of which there ran a railway, encountered a number of insane people out for exercise in charge of a keeper. With a nod toward the railway tracks, he said to one of the lunatics: “Where does this railway go to?” The lunatic looked at him scornfully a moment, and then replied: “It doesn't go anywhere. We keep it here to run trains on.”

MEDICAL.

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